Daily Report
Latin America

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Cuba

Risquet Comments on Haiti, S. Africa, Region

FL081359 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, has said in Paris that the road of the Haitian people to eliminate Duvalierism will be hard and difficult and the United States will interfere in the process. During a news conference held at the Cuban Embassy in Paris, Risquet added that he does not exclude the possibility of a direct U.S. invasion.

He also said the Sandinist government has made a great effort to fulfill the Esquipulas II agreement, which has not been easy since Nicaragua is at war and endures continued U.S. aggression.

In response to a question on Cuba's military presence in Angola, Risquet denied news reports from South Africa on alleged clashes between South African troops and Cuban internationalists.

Rodriguez Meets With Indian Minister of State

FL051350 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received Eduardo Faleiro, Indian minister of state for external affairs, in Havana yesterday. They analyzed extensively the current international situation, paying special attention to the upcoming Gorbachev-Reagan summit in Washington.

Castro Speaks at Julio Diaz Hospital Ceremony

FL050334 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0232 GMT 5 Dec 87

[By (Samuel Hura)]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, today inaugurated the 200-bed unit of of the Julio Diaz Rehabilitation Hospital in Boyeros Municipality, Havana City Province.

Fidel recalled that this project was part of the Turquino Program developed at that historical meeting of assistance center leaders in Havana in December 1985. He said they drafted the plan there which is making it possible to incorporate 5,000 beds in different hospital centers. This program is a great challenge, he said.

The president of the Councils of State and Ministers remarked on the creation of the Julio Diaz Contingent which was organized by the party to build the hospital. The group of workers received its banner today.

During his remarks inaugurating the 200-bed addition to the hospital, Fidel said the contingent selected to build this extension has become a school. He stressed this resulted in the idea to create the Blas Roca Contingent, which is completing the East-West Highway, as well as another collective of workers. He said each municipality in Havana City has pledged to organize a similar group.

The principal leader of the revolution said the Julio Diaz Hospital [words indistinct] because of the extraordinary service it renders and the warmth of the doctors, nurses, and workers. Nothing will detain our rapid advancement, Fidel said. We are accumulating forces and resources to continue this effort to transform our capital, he added.

Contingent chief Juan Montalvo said at the inauguration ceremony that during the 18 months the project was under construction, Fidel visited them 15 times.

Our commander in chief explained these visits were because the collective is like a school which has given us ideas that have been applied in other areas.

Hospital Director Dr Hugo Martinez Sanchez presented Fidel with a photo album showing the work of the group, some of whom were presented (?to the public).

The first secretary of the PCC Central Committee noted the ceremony was attended by a group of U.S. city planners, who received a special invitation to the event. He said Cuban architects have toured different cities to study the strategy for the future development of our capital.

Our commander in chief announced the Julio Diaz Contingent would immediately begin its second project: a rehabilitation center which will become the best in Cuba and perhaps in Latin America because of its nature and conditions. He said the area of the project measures 17,000 square meters, 4 times larger than the area of the building just inaugurated.

He later referred to the third project of the contingent, which will be another unit for the Salvadoran combatants, young patriots and revolutionaries who were mutilated in the war of genocide promoted by the imperialists.

This is how we advance, he said, and on this road we can achieve anything we want. He stressed there are two exemplary collectives of workers at the Julio Trigo [as heard] Hospital, one composed of health workers and the other composed of the construction workers expanding that assistance center.

Villa Clara Meeting Ends Assessment Process

FL071355 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] The provincial assessment process all over the country has concluded with the Villa Clara PCC meeting. Lionel Soto, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, made the closing speech at the Villa Clara meeting. He said this assessment process has once more given evidence of the people's revolutionary reaction to the rectification process and of the impressive work performed by their political vanguard.

Comrade Tomas Cardenas Garcia was ratified as first party secretary in Villa Clara.

Barbados

CCC Observers Comment on Haitian Elections

FL071451 Bridgetown CANA in English 2108 GMT 2 Dec 87

[By Keudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 2, CANA—The head of a Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) mission which went to observe last Sunday's elections in Haiti, on Wednesday tentatively put at over 200 the death toll in the violence which forced cancellation of the poll.

"Some journalists with whom I discussed the number of deaths told me that (they) averaged the number...to be over 200 because there were so many ambulances packed with corpses moving through the streets and certainly there were many more than 34," Roman Catholic Archbishop Kelvin Felix told a Canaradio-sponsored news conference here.

Most international news media had put the death toll at around 34.

Felix, primate of St Lucia, supported the idea of sending in an international peacekeeping force to ensure the holding of the elections.

Felix also saw a role for Caribbean Community (Caricom) governments which he said could get in touch with the military-dominated National Council of Government to see what measure of understanding would prevail to bring about peaceful transition to democracy.

Dr Colin Hope, editor of the CCC-owned CARIBBEAN CONTACT newspaper, criticised Caricom governments for not sending in observers to witness the poll. "The Caricom governments have let us down. They have let the people of Haiti down," said Hope, who was in Port-au-Prince as part of the observer mission.

CCC officials stressed the determination of Haitians to achieve democracy and change in their homeland, after 30 years of dictatorship. CCC General Secretary Allan Kirton envisaged there will be a serious backlash from Haitians to the violence and pointed to the possibility of the crisis escalating into all-out civil war.

"I think that when the depression rises, the people of Haiti will speak and I fear (there) will be an extremely violent message and I suspect that probably the army's guns may not be adequate to deal with the people's backlash," Rev. Kirton said on Canaradio in a telephone hook-up from Curacao. "I think we could easily have a situation of civil war on our hands. We pray God that that does not happen."

The election, the first free poll in Haiti for 30 years, was called off after thugs associated with the ousted Duvalier regime went on the rampage through the capital, shooting and hacking people to death at random as they queued to vote. Independent onlookers have cited evidence showing the military supported the attacks by members of the Tonton Macoutes, Duvalier's disbanded secret police.

Kirton said the CCC leadership was meeting in Curacao to determine their next course of action in relation to Haiti. A statement is likely later this week.

Haiti

Three Organizations Dissociate From Strike

FL072154 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] ...December, 1st day of a general strike called by at least seven organizations and political parties for today, Monday 7 December.

Activity is below normal in Port-au-Prince. There is public transportation along all routes but it is partial. Stores and schools remain closed. [passage omitted]

A slowdown is also evident in the provinces, in public transportation, and in commerce but things are not totally paralyzed. We will deal with this later in our reports from various correspondents.

Three organizations have decided to dissociate themselves from the strike movement as of midnight tonight. The People's National Assembly [Assemblee Populaire Nationale—APN], Mr (Raynald Trouillot's) metropolitan area public transportation drivers union, and the Socialist Workers League [Ligue des Ouvriers Socialistes] held a news conference this morning to announce they were lifting their strike order declaring other parties and organizations were attempting to benefit from their protest movement. [passage omitted]

Strike Situation in Provinces Reported

FL072240 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1700 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Although you cannot hear our correspondents in the rest of the provinces because of technical problems, we inform you that public transportation in Gonaives has been semiparalyzed. It has not been normal. Stores remained closed but there were people in the marketplace. Correspondent (Edgard Bruno) informed us there is a heavy military presence in Gonaives. He also said the Gonaives authorities are supposed to meet with representatives of the population this afternoon to discuss the lack of security in Gonaives.

In Saint-Marc, the marketplace and many stores were open but public transportation is sparse.

In Hinche, (Yose Zin), a Caritas coordinator, seems to have a problem with the town authorities. He has been arrested and other Caritas members are protesting. As regards the strike, the marketplace and stores are open but business is slow. Everything else is closed in Hinche, says our correspondent.

Groups Decline Invitation to Name New CEP

FL072212 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Five organizations—the Episcopal Conference of Haiti, the Protestant federation, the journalists association, the human rights leagues, and the board of the National University of Haiti—invited by the government to designate representatives to a new Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] have declined the invitation.

In answering letters to the National Government Council, these organizations expressed their disapproval of the government decree of 29 November removing the members of the CEP. They also deplore the tragic events of 29 November and the government's incomprehensible attitude vis-a-vis these events. [passage omitted]

Radio Soleil Resumes Broadcasting 7 Dec

FL072125 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpts] A big good morning to all of Haiti this morning.A big good morning to all Haitians who believe in this country and in change. Good morning to all the radio stations that, like us, have also had problems—Radio Haiti-Inter; Radio Cacique; Radio Antilles-Internationale; Radio Lumiere, which despite all its difficulties is continuing to inform the population; and Radio Metropole, which was left practically alone to inform the country for awhile. The news team greets you all this morning. [passage omitted]

After 4 days of broadcast testing following the heavy damage done to our equipment on the night of Saturday 28 November, we are now able to resume most of our usual programs. However, there have been a few changes. In time, we will inform all our listeners of these changes but this morning we would like to begin our newscast by talking about a number of events that have occurred in Haiti which culminated in the events of Sunday, 29 November. [passage omitted]

Reported Arrests in Dominican Republic

FL072344 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Report from Radio Metropole correspondent in Santo Domingo (Jean Gazman Bissainthe)]

[Excerpt] Last Friday, 4 December, approximately 1,500 Haitians were imprisoned (?as the result of a brutal military roundup) in northern Dominican Republic, in Mao. The Haitians [words indistinct] fourth brigade in Mao. The police arrested them when they were surprised doing farm work. Many of them will be sent to the sugar industry in various parts of the Dominican Republic.

The ULTIMA HORA newspaper announced that also on 4 December, the military arrested more than 45 Haitians in (?Los Reyes), also in the north of the Dominican Republic. The military also arrested more than 100 Haitians in Santiago.

The Committee of Solidarity with the Haitian People and the Center for Integral Human Promotion (?unmasked) the military violence [words indistinct] day and night to sow terror where Haitians live and work in Santiago, which is also in the north of the Dominican Republic.

Many of the people arrested have been deported. [passage omitted]

Linked to Journalist's Death

FL080007 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1700 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] According to our correspondent in the Dominican Republic, many Haitians are encountering problems there because Dominican authorities are hunting them down for the sugarcane harvest [preceding word in Spanish]. Their difficulties seem to have increased since 29 November, when a Dominican journalist was killed during the voting in Port-au-Prince.

[Begin (Merce) recording] A good afternoon to all in Haiti. The big news in the Dominican Republic is a veritable manhunt of all Haitians in the Dominican Republic being effected by the government. Haitians living in the Dominican Republic are living in fear. At this time we ask the Haitian Government to enter into direct contact with the Dominican Government with a view to an agreement, because according to observers and to many (?Haitians here), [break in transmission], they think the Namphy government, as they call it, doesn't have any [break in transmission] with the 1988

sugarcane harvest with President Balaguer. Therefore, they are rounding up Haitians in all parts of the Dominican Republic. They don't care if the Haitians are in the Dominican Republic legally or illegally.

We ask all political and religious organizations, all Haitian students, and all Haitian people in general, to show solidarity with the atrocious poverty of their Haitian brethern currently living in the Dominican Republic. We (?are thinking a lot) about the situation of our brothers. Not only does Haiti have internal problems but it currently has problems abroad, too, because of the death of Dominican journalist Carlos Grullon on 29 November during elections. There is much talk in connection with this death. Haitians, regardless of their (?class) cannot get in a vehicle, cannot walk the streets.

In light of what is going on, we wonder if there is really an ambassador or a consul representing Haitians in the Dominican Republic because Mr Gerard Constant has said nothing and they began harassing Haitians on 29 November, after they heard about the death of this Dominican journalist.

Friends, our Haitian brothers, clergymen—Catholic and Protestant—political organizations, we are asking for solidarity so that something can be done. We are not asking for demonstrations against Dominicans living in Haiti but seek harmony and dialogue with the provisional government in Haiti so it will send a mission directly to the Dominican Republic to solve the problems of these Haitians.

We thank you for listening. This is (Georges Merce), a student in the Dominican Republic, from Santiago de los Caballeros. [end recording]

Jamaica

Minister Comments on Haitian Situation

FL071432 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Education Minister Dr Neville Gallimore says an invasion of strife-torn Haiti would not be in Jamaica's best interest. Dr Gallimore, who was Caricom representative in Haiti during the abortive elections last week, was speaking on RJR's "Exposure" program [news program] yesterday.

[Begin recording] Let us assume that [words indistinct] how long would that (?force) have to stay there to maintain law and order, when you have the Macoutes (?are there all ready). The rescue mission that went into Grenada in 1983 was swift in doing things. If you're thinking of it as surgery, it was a clean surgery compared to what you would have here. And in spite of how quick and effective that was, we lost a lot of tourist bookings although Grenada is over a thousand miles away. Because, foreign countries see the Caribbean as one little sphere because they look on the map and it looks small. Trouble in the Caribbean [words indistinct]. Let's go to Hawaii instead, let's go to Miami instead. And you lose a lot here. No, if we have that happen just a few miles away from here, our closest neighbor, can you imagine the effect it will have on our tourist arrivals and our foreign exchange situation? Our own self-interest tells us that we must try to work things out in a common [word indistinct]. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Trinidad and Tobago

Another Minister Criticizes Robinson

FL032319 Bridgetown CANA in English 1414 GMT 1 Dec 87

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 1. CANA—More cracks appeared in Trinidad and Tobago's administration as a government minister accused Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson of ignoring him in the preparation of the 1988 budget.

Trevor Sudama, one of two non-cabinet ministers assisting Robinson in running the Ministry of Finance, claimed the budget was put together with the help of a clique of influential technocrats. Sudama spoke on Monday night at a public meeting held by John Humphrey who was fired as works minister last Saturday after criticising the government's performance.

We've been trying to tell you (Robinson), we're not happy with the way decisions are made in Trinidad and Tobago. It is yourself and a small clique who sit down there and want to rule this country, Sudama told an applauding audience. He said the advisers were non-elected and therefore unaccountable to the people. But they sit around there and they feel because they have the prime minister's ear, they are little Caesars in Trinidad and Tobago, he added.

I tell him, I say that can't work. Whoever preparing budget, let them prepare budget but Trevor Sudama ain't defending no budget. I tell him that already because me ain't part of that business... I ain't going (to) defend nothing I ain't know nothing about, Sudama said.

Sudama said he had not uttered a word of dissatisfaction because he believed before in giving the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction [NAR] a chance to get its house in order. Sudama was the third minister in Robinson's eleven month old administration to speak out following growing complaints by Humphrey who said Robinson was not talking to his cabinet, and deputy NAR leader and external affairs minister, Basdeo Panday who called for national dialogue to deal with the country's problems.

On Monday night, Panday and new Public Utilities Minister Kelvin Ramnath also spoke in central Trinidad whilst Humphrey and Sudama spoke at a party branch meeting.

Panday and Ramnath were the only two ministers not to shake hands with Robinson after the new Cabinet were sworn in on Sunday night. Some ministers were reshuffled and new faces brought in after the prime minister asked his Cabinet to resign last Thursday [26 Nov].

If we are fired, we're going on the backbenches of the NAR to put pressure on the executive, Sudama told the large crowd in Humphrey's constituency. Sudama said the current public battle had been waging before in the party: We found ourselves talking to a brick wall within the NAR so there was no choice but to bring it into the open, Sudama said.

The key question here tonight is who really is the source of power, he said. Those who want to exercise power behind closed doors will have to account to the people...we will not tolerate any sort of Caesar coming to dominate.

All the speakers stressed that they were abiding by the new party resolution thrashed out on Sunday ensuring ministers argue their differences within the party by addressing branch meetings. I ain't criticising anybody. I am a minister of government and I am supposed to have a certain kind of collective responsibility...but collective responsibility exercised in the right way, Sudama said.

We do not want to remove the prime minister from office. What we want him to do is the right thing for the people of Trinidad and Tobago and...when the voice of the people is known and known clearly to him, he either bends to the will of the people or he has one other choice, Sudama said.

Sudama Expands Remarks

FL071526 Bridgetown CANA in English 1932 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 3, CANA—A government minister was quoted on Thursday as saying he was willing to face the consequences of criticising the leadership style of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson. In press interviews, Trevor Sudama, a minister in the Ministry of Finance, defended his comments on Monday when he said that he was not consulted on the preparation of the budget. Sudama had also lashed out at technocrats whom he said had the prime minister's ear.

I am prepared to face whatever consequences may lie ahead. I have no problem with that - I have made my decision regarding which way to go, Sudama told the GUARDIAN newspaper. My position as a junior minister is terribly nebulous and insecure. No one is disputing the minister's authority but, if there are areas which are supposed to be under my authority and I do not know what is happening, how can I accept responsibility for them, he told the EXPRESS newspaper.

Sudama said he had only been able to make decisions on one area in his portfolio- project financing- whilst other areas attributed to him on paper, from fiscal and monetary policy to financial institutions, were being decided upon elsewhere.

The responsibilities were given to him in an April letter from his senior minister, Robinson, who also holds the finance portfolio, and a list of people supposed to work on the 1988 budget included his name although Sudama said he had only gone to one meeting at which he had no input. I have no problem with being peripheral but how am I going to be responsible for anything for which I have authority Sudama said.

Sudama's comments are part of on-going bickering among ministers, one of whom was fired in cabinet reshuffle last week.

NAR Bickering Not Affecting Foreign Policy

FL032322 Bridgetown CANA in English 2215 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 2, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's External Affairs Minister Basdeo Panday says squabbling within the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) is not affecting this country's foreign policy. This is really a struggle to break out of the political monolith, to create a greater freedom of strength and expression, Panday said on local radio Tuesday [1 Dec] night.

Panday, one of the two deputy NAR leaders, had been invited to discuss foreign policy issues on Radio Trinidad and the show's moderator insisted questions be kept to this area. However, recent public criticisms between senior NAR members, including Panday's own call for more national dialogue, have dominated local news coverage here and was the topic of one of the first questions to Panday by listeners phoning in.

Quite frankly, a lot of people are misunderstanding what is taking place, Panday said. It is not in anyway affecting the foreign policy, he said.

Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, currently attending the Miami conference on the Caribbean, was asked related questions about how last Saturday's reshuffle affected investor confidence in the twin island republic.

Some of these events can affect foreign investors but I think people who are serious about investment would look more carefully at the Trinidad and Tobago scene, Robinson was reported as telling a Miami news conference by the TRINIDAD EXPRESS.

NAR Committee Appointed To Study Problems

FL071817 Bridgetown CANA in English 1647 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 4, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), wracked by internal bickering over the running of the year-old government, has announced the appointment of a four-man committee to get to the root of the problem. News of the move followed a four-hour NAR meeting Thursday which one party official described as "bitter but frank."

The committee includes Deputy Political Leader Basdeo Panday, whose United Labour Front (ULF) 22 months ago joined three other parties to form the NAR, and some of whose members have been publicly criticising the government.

We are going to identify the issues and we are going to discuss the issues, said Party Vice Chairman Nizam Mohammed of the work of the committee. I do not see members of the cabinet, or cabinet ministers going out in public and continuing what we have been witnessing over the last two or three weeks, added Mohammed, who is also Speaker of the House.

The committee was formed after Junior Finance Minister Trevor Sudama launched an attack against the government over the preparation of the 1988 budget, declaring he was excluded from the exercise, and affirming he will not be participating in the forthcoming parliamentary debate on the budget. Sudama, who charged too that the budget was put together by Prime Minister and Finance Minister, A.N.R. Robinson and a clique of technocrats, was called to put his case before the party's heirarchy in Thursday's stormy session.

Robinson told reporters after the talks that Sudama was still his junior finance minister. When asked for how much longer, the prime minister laughed and responded: I can't say.

Mohammed said that the NAR had now decided to look at the causes for the public — sometimes angry — exchanges among government figures. ...We are going to be looking at the root causes of the problem, he said.

The committee started work on Thursday night, but has no timetable to complete its task.

In addition to Panday, the other members of the committee are Organiser Roy Augustus, General Secretary Dr. Bhoe Tewarie and Planning Minister Winston Dookeran, who is credited with being the architect of the NAR's 1986 election manifesto. The NAR has been hit by a series of public outbursts among some of its main figures. Prime Minister Robinson last week ordered the resignation of his entire cabinet and later re-appointed all but one minister, works Minister John Humphrey, who was regarded as the most outspoken in the cabinet. Mohammed, after appointment of the committee, had been side-tracked by having to prep certain issues have surfaced, and we have taken firm decisions to look at these issues, he added. [sentence as received]

Humphrey Lashes Out Against Robinson

FL072102 Bridgetown CANA in English 2307 GMT 5 Dec 87

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 5,CANA—Dismissed Works Minister John Humphrey accused Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson of "prime ministerial dictatorship" in a letter four months ago, according to two letters released by the outspoken parliamentarian on Saturday. He also released what he said was a verbatim report of a November 25 meeting of a constituency branch of the ruling party at which calls were heard for the dismissal of "unruly ministers."

Humphrey was sacked in a cabinet reshuffle last Saturday after peristent criticism of the government's performance and Robinson's style of leadership. Explaining why he was now going public with the documents, originally intended for use before the party's disciplinary committee, Humphrey said he had tried to generate debate within the cabinet and failed for eleven months.

The truth of what was transpired over the last year has to be revealed and I am a believer that the truth will set us free, Humphrey told CANA.

When you speak of debate, you speak of more than one person conferring... but, in this instance, I sought to express thoughts and ideas but I got absolutely no response from the prime minister so there was no debate...Humphrey said.

Asked whether he was on a collision course with Robinson, Humphrey said: I am on a collision course with the tendency of Mr. Robinson to set himself up as a dictator, yes.

I will continue agitating until the issues are clearly understood by the population and then the population will have to decide one way or the other, Humphrey said, stating he would not go in for talks with Robinson unless the party's two deputy leaders, Basdeo Panday and Karl Hudson-Phillips were present.

In the September 4 letter, Humphrey accused Robinson of "prime ministerial dictatorship" for taking a deep water harbour project for Tobago from Humphrey's portfolio. By intervening in this way you have committed a breach of the constitution and you have rendered me ineffectual as minister, Humphrey said in the letter. What is worse is that you have acted on rumour and hear-say and have not even had the courtesy of consulting with me prior to taking your action. More and more

I have witnessed a creeping priministerial dictatorship—something I cannot and will not countenance and something that we have both walked away from in the past, the letter continued.

You have the constitutional authority to advise the president that my portfolio had been removed from me but you're wrong to intervene in such a way as to bypass me as minister so long as I have the responsibility for the functions under my charge. I'm recording this protest in the hope that you would take remedial action by returning to me, as minister, the business of the responsibility for Scorborough Deep Water Harbor project and if there is any query that you might wish to raise you do so honestly and directly for that is how I function and will continue to function, Humphrey's letter concluded.

According to the alleged minutes of the NAR constituency meeting Robinson had accused Humphrey of awarding a number of contracts in an illegal manner. In a letter dated September 7 Humphrey admitted that the proposed local contractor for the harbour project was a friend of his but said the tender had been TT13 million dollars less than the other offer from British contraction firm George Wimpey (Caribbean). The letter also explained why he had asked the Tenders Committee to re-evaluate the bids after "inaccuracies" were discovered.

As far as I am concerned, the truth has to be known by the people of Trinidad and Tobago because there is no point in establishing what appears to be stability when the thing's still festering behind the scenes because sooner or later it's going to erupt again, Humphrey told CANA justifying his release of the documents.

Representative Criticizes Attorney General

FL072131 Bridgetown CANA in English 1759 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 3, CANA—The attorney general came under fire on Wednesday night in the latest saga in the war of words within the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

Speaker of Trinidad and Tobago's House of Representatives, Nizam Mohammed accused Attorney General Selwyn Richardson of creating mischief by saying that the disquiet in the government was caused by cliques.

Mohammed made the comments on a live radio radio phone-in programme which also featured Works Minister John Humphrey who was dismissed in a cabinet reshuffle last Saturday. I think that the attorney general is being very irresponsible by doing this without calling names, Mohammed said. I think the time has come for him to call names. If he knows there is a clique or a small group of people doing something, that is inimical not only to the government and the party but to the country at large.

After all, he is the attorney general and I have discovered none. And we have been talking, all of us have been talking and there is the greatest deal of goodwill that one can find, a spirit of co-operation. People are pouring their hearts out with the best of intentions within the party at all levels.

And when we have this kind of statement being made, I think that it is highly irresponsible for an attorney general to be doing this and I want to say I feel that he is doing this just in order to create mischief, Mohammed said.

The NAR, merged in February 1986 from four separate opposition parties, has faced the growing quarreling as ministers claim their complaints inside cabinet have not been heeded. Humphrey, dropped after criticising the government's performance, said on the programme he would continue in the NAR.

He said there was a level of dissatisfaction amongst many members of government but that he had been one of the few who aired such views. Humphrey expressed support for Industry Minister Senator Ken Gordon, one of the non-elected ministers who has been the target of some internal criticism.

But Humphrey insisted that the interests of business represented by Gordon must be balanced by the Labour Orientation of deputy NAR leader, and Foreign Minister Basdeo Panday.

Asked where he would go from here, Humphrey said his plan to bring Robinson before the NAR Disciplinary Committee to prove how Humphrey had breached NAR guidelines was a minor tactic.

The plan of action is to reassemble the forces that brought the NAR into being and to work the thing out of that and "I'm hoping that Lloyd Best would return and participate in the discussion, Humphrey said. Best, a respected economist, was a leader of the Tapia House Movement, one of the NAR's constituent groups, before he quit the new party earlier this year.

Meanwhile, the GUARDIAN released excerpts of a NAR party report on the September 14 local government elections which said members were not happy with the party's appointment methods for the polls. The report said there had been almost nationwide dissatisfaction with the selection methods and that the committee had been unable to get the full co-operation of party General Secretary Dr. Bhoe Tewarie in assessing exactly who this process took place.

The grassroot support of this party felt they were totally alienated and betrayed. A combination of these factors, it was felt, had conspired to erode the party's newly-won popularity, the report was quoted as saying.

PRI's 'Basic Electoral Platform'

PA180320 Mexico City EL NACIONAL (special supplement) in Spanish 8 Nov 87

[Document issued by PRI: "National Renovation for Mexico's Modernization Through Political Action; Basic Electoral Platform"—date of document not given]

[Text] Paragraph 8 of Article 92 of the PRI statutes order the Institute for Political, Economic, and Social Studies (IEPES) "to draft the basic electoral platform for the political actions of the party's presidential candidate. This platform will be presented to the National Convention to be approved." CONTENTS

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INTRODUCTION [subhead]

1. Composition and Objectives of the Platform [subhead]

The basic electoral platform is the document that represents the cornerstone of a new PRI political campaign. Based on this point of reference, the candidates of the Mexican revolution will seek the majority of votes in the political campaign that will conclude on 6 July 1988. The platform contains views and proposals by PRI members throughout the country. It will be expanded during the campaign with the demands and requests by the rank-and-file members and with the statements and commitments made by the candidate to the Presidency of the Republic.

The essential values of the national plan outlined in the 1917 Constitution have been and will continue to be the cornerstone of the PRI actions. For that reason this basic electoral platform proposes to advance the defense and strengthening of national sovereignty, to perfect democratic life, and to modernize the economy with social equity.

The party of the Mexican revolutionaries has a consistent and viable program. We will win in honest elections to continue representing the will of the majority. The PRI will retain power in a democratic campaign in order to continue struggling for the national plan.

2. The Essential Values of the National Plan [subhead]

The PRI's declaration of principles and plan of action contains the aspirations of the majority of Mexicans. They represent the defense and the strengthening of the values outlined in the 1917 Constitution in view of the development of the historic process that began with the movement of independence, continued with the reform, and culminated with the revolution. The Mexican revolution represents at once the liberalism of the 19th century and the early victories of the social ideas of the 20th century. The national plan that emerged from this synthesis unites individual guarantees and social rights: In Mexico, liberty and equality are complementary terms.

The basic electoral platform takes up again those values that give meaning to the PRI's slogan—Democracy and Social Justice—and presents them as the ideological basis of the new campaign of the Mexican revolution:

—Throughout all the struggles of the Mexican people the defense of their sovereignty has been present. Moreover, independence from other countries is not something that is achieved once and for all but is instead a persistent struggle where the commitment to continue to be a nation is the most important aspect.

—Liberty provides the environment for the development of man. In the Mexican plan it constitutes the boundary that guarantees a de jure state and allows social change without detriment to the individual.

—Liberty acquires meaning in social justice. If individual guarantees and social rights are the synthesis of the Mexican revolutionary process, their existence rests on the inescapable principle of satisfying the essential needs of every Mexican by lessening gaps of inequality among individuals, groups, and regions.

—Liberty and equality can only exist in democracy. The PRI presents democracy as a way of living that must be reflected in all areas of social existence: political, economic, social, and cultural. The PRI wants a democracy that goes beyond elections to become a daily participation for the sake of individual liberty and social equality.

The PRI's ideological cornerstone is strengthened with the gains by the people in favor of democracy and social justice. The PRI will tenaciously defend these gains. It is including them as part of its basic electoral platform because it understands that national renewal is a process entailing change and transformation bases itself on our values and principles, adapts itself to new circumstances, and seeks in higher levels of development the full realization of the objectives that the people proposed in the Mexican revolution.

The party will defend:

—Our system of representative, republican, democratic, and federal government as the instrument to support internal unity and national sovereignty.

—Effective suffrage and non-reelection as the instruments which make our government system genuine, fully respecting the people's will expressed through their votes.

—Federalism, as the unity in the national diversity.

—Freedom in the municipalities, where Mexico's democratic life expresses itself daily.

—The division of the government in branches, as a guarantee of the representative regime and the strength of the de jure state.

—The separation between the church and state, and strict respect for religious freedom.

—The nation's ownership and control over its strategic resources as the basis for national independence and the state's economic leadership.

—Privately owned lands as the foundation for rural social organization and the peasants' participation in the overall development of rural areas.

—Unionism as the key to the strength of the Mexican labor movement and its struggle for a more just and egalitarian society.

—Free public education based on the principle of equal opportunities as postulated by the revolutionary state.

—Social security as the principle of justice which must be expressed in every aspect of the Mexican people's life as a community.

The revolution's ideology and achievements have been forged by generations. The PRI identifies itself with and sponsors this ideology and these achievements. The modernization process the party proposes is part of this historic goal, namely, the change with continuity advised by the bold prudence of the political movement in power.

The new campaign of the Mexican Revolution begins with this ideology. The present challenges will be confronted by the experience and the force of the ideas which have been polished through the real exercise of power. The party intends to implement national modernization to carry it through another 6-year term in the construction of Mexico's revolutionary project.

3. National Renewal: Advances and Perspectives [subhead]

In an international atmosphere that is complex and adverse, Mexico has recently faced the most severe economic crisis in its contemporary history with a sense of renewal. Consolidating the achievements made by the majority of the Mexican people and focusing our attention on the least protected groups are our clear goals.

The party proposes to continue the political reform and the structural change which have been the backbone of this renewal. Based on revolutionary nationalism, the party will advance in these two aspects to perfect the overall democratization, expand popular participation, advance in the country's decentralization, firmly defend the fight against corruption, promote the egalitarian society, and recover the ability to develop with a firm struggle against inflation, through the use of democratic planning.

The national renewal, guided by these principles, has counted on a solid legislative framework which attests to the ability of the de jure system to recognize social transformation and channel revolutionary changes:

—The election procedures have been reformed to give them more validity. More paths for agreements between the people and the government have been opened and the balance among the government branches has been strengthened. The Federal Pact has been strengthened with the decentralization, and the municipalities have truly started to become the original center of Mexican democracy. In the Federal District, new advances for the citizens' participation and representation in the government have been made. The foreign policy has been strengthened to defend and promote national interests.

An economic strategy has been efficiently and coherently applied, on the one hand reorganizing to combat inflation and to protect the productive sector and employment, and on the other hand bringing about structural changes to increase the efficiency of the productive apparatus, correct public finances in depth, and establish the foundations for a just, lasting development. The party maintains that the most adequate economic strategy has been used in response to the external conditions and most serious domestic challenges.

Despite economic adversity, attention to the people's basic needs has been broadened and improved. In education and culture; in food, nutrition, and integral rural development; in health and social security; in urban development; in housing; and in the protection of the environment, we have faced the challenge of making more and better efforts with fewer resources. There are still serious problems that must be faced. However, the emergency has not stopped revolutionary activities. There has been clear concern about social demands, which has been reflected in the revolutionary government's programs. It has been possible to do more with less, ruling with patriotism, seriousness, talent, and honesty.

Based on what has been achieved, and with the coherence of revolutionary ideology, the party plans to move forward in the process of change to modernize our policies and economy through the broad path of democracy.

By including political relations, by recognizing the changing international situation, by improving forms of production, and by having a deep social sense, the reorganization goes beyond material aspects and becomes a true cultural change. There is a new Mexico before us: the one we are building today. That is why we will not take a single step backward when defending revolutionary nationalism and full democratization, promoting the nation's decentralization and an egalitarian society, supporting moral renewal, encouraging development and jobs, and combating inflation through democratic planning. These are theories and principles derived from the Constitution and included in our basic documents, on which we will not yield.

I. THE REVOLUTION AND THE CHALLENGES IT MUST MEET [subhead]

In 70 years the revolution's regimes have changed the country: They have achieved considerable progress and benefits for the peasants, workers, and popular classes. In fact, they have gone from political statements to social change. However, consolidating and broadening popular achievements are great challenges: Inherited problems must be overcome, and Mexico's vigor must be added to the great changes the world is experiencing.

Our party knows—much more than any other party—the country's reality, its people's demands, and the best way to handle them. The PRI's strength lies in its ability to outline Mexico's great challenges and not to become overwhelmed or to surrender, but to state them, confront them, and overcome them along with the people. Today we already know the outlines of the future's challenges. The electoral platform states them so exact theories and concrete proposals can emerge from the campaign and be used to outline the government's programs and actions.

1. The Sovereignty Challenge [subhead]

We will face the challenge of reaffirming our sovereignty. The world is subjected to conflicts and political tensions, and it is immersed in a drastic process of changes and adjustments. A technological revolution—unprecedented in range since the great discoveries of the previous century—is changing the ways we produce, exchange, and consume. The monetary and commercial order formed after World War II has been broken. International interdependence has increased. In certain regions, an attempt is even being made to change the balance of power. A different world is being created amid pressures, readjustments, and schisms. Many countries' sovereignty is not guaranteed to them; sometimes this happens because of a military conflict, while at other times it is due to their inability to define their own course and reconcile their internal social forces.

To reject world change out of ignorance or fear is tantamount to condemning a nation to perpetuating old habits and creating new forms of dependence. The

challenge involves placing Mexico within this change, all the while using a specific strategy and operating on the basis of the nation's own will. This is the only way to increase our presence, as a sovereign nation, with a proud attitude and capacity that is recognized on the complex and tense international scene.

Mexico has built a sovereign state amid a difficult history. The achievement of our political self-determination sums up the history of the 19th century. The advance after the Mexican Revolution is synonymous with economic progress and social independence, as well as the consolidation of popular sovereignty within a representative state. In coming years, as has always been the case in our history, our sovereignty cannot be taken for granted or considered an exclusive inheritance of past struggles; it is a conquest that must be reaffirmed with the strong, constant, and devoted efforts of the entire nation.

Mexico's nationalism is the starting point in its relations with other countries. It is an option that, aside from any exclusivism, permits the formation of firm ties between two equal states. In the face of the challenge of reaffirming our devotion for sovereignty and in the face of hegemonic threats, we have a revolutionary project, a product of our own political and legal ability, which reconciles equality with liberty. In other words, it reconciles society with the individual. We have an inheritance that is a great culture. It is deeply rooted in our history and our geography. It is vigorous because of its diversity. Amid changes, it is capable of maintaining the faith in our common destiny. Mexico will remain sovereign and more united because of its cultural identity and its love for the fatherland. To face the changes in an increasingly interdependent world, we must use the just path of nationalism and the creativity of our culture to reaffirm our sovereignty.

2. The Democratic Challenge [subhead]

In the coming years, we will continue to face a democratic challenge: the need to increase political participation channels and align the perfecting of our institutions with the increasingly diverse and pluralistic nature of our society.

Our zeal for democracy, understood in its liberal and social context, is the element that has given continuity to the doctrine of the Mexican political system and the strength of its action. We want democracy to bring real conditions that will make equal opportunity, freedom, and social welfare possible.

The national community has acquired a new profile through the years; in the future, we will live in a more pluralistic, better informed, and more competitve society. Therefore, it will be necessary to modernize the institutions. The challenge we have ahead is to make sure the institutions continue to be the channel for the political participation of a changing community.

In the proposed modernization process, the strengthening of the state and the broad participation of civil society will support each other. We will need a democratically organized civil society so that it can expand its presence in the electoral processes, share power, improve the political system's channels, and guide the authorities' decisions. We will need a democratically strong state to promote the nation's best resources.

Democratic life in a society like ours necessarily constitutes the basis for guaranteeing respect for the wishes of the majorities and for their representation in political organizations. The revolution's party rejects models that differ from our constitutional system, which is the foundation of our political stability. Encouraging and promoting greater popular participation in decisionmaking should not leave room for institutional vacuums which could lead to the authoritarianism or conservatism most of our people reject.

This democratic challenge will require a better-informed society. This means the state, as well as the social and private communications media will be responsible for building and reaffirming our democracy every day on the basis of a pluralistic society, respecting differences and the basic values that preserve the Mexican nationality.

3. The Social Challenge [subhead]

The social challenge is the most acute and the most difficult. The nation's majorities want the equality called for in the Constitution to be real. During the period from 1988 to 1994, there will be 10 million more Mexicans. During the next decade, we will face the highest demand for jobs in our history. The population's requirements will constantly multiply. We must meet this demand with good judgment and without demagoguery. It can be faced only with job opportunities, redoubled efforts, clear policies, and firm actions.

There are continuing social problems that the governments since the Mexican Revolution have not been able to eliminate, despite efforts and noteworthy advancements. We admit shortfalls in coverage and poor quality in providing services in the areas of housing, health, education, recreation, and environmental quality. The revolution's party ratifies its determination to give urgent attention to the unattended basic needs, not only in quantity, but also in quality; the modernization it proposes requires an effort to achieve excellence in the services offered to the people.

Much progress has been made in the area of family planning. The challenge is to consolidate the achievements and to advance toward the future. It will not suffice to only reduce the population growth in relative terms or to prevent those who migrate from their hometowns into the cities; their migration worsens the situation in the town to which they move. Mexico should

work toward achieving a balance between rural and urban areas, offering dignified living conditions in both cases, although the lifestyles may be different.

Public security is particularly important in coping with the social challenge. It is necessary to improve and modernize the norms, mechanisms, and administrative duties in institutions in the three government levels that guarantee security for Mexicans. However, that effort must also be aimed at eliminating the economic and social factors leading to crime and to poor security.

Effective equality should be the result of efforts by each of us and the sum of efforts by all of us. It means employment opportunities, an education responding to the needs of Mexico in the 21st century, medical attention, adequate housing, and the supply of the appropriate urban and rural services. The challenge is huge, and the cost is very high. Achieving these goals requires good judgment, planning, and efficiency in public investments, and this demands consolidating and strengthening the people's active participation in the social programs to increase the programs' efficiency. Achieving the goals requires solid work by all citizens and the active responsibility of all social sectors. In a democratic society, the quality of life is not the exclusive duty of the government. It is the duty of all citizens to participate in this effort to the extent of their personal capabilities.

4. The Economic Challenge [subhead]

The past years have been years of serious economic difficulties. The country has had to face a complex crisis with multiple causes: domestic causes linked to structural deficiencies in our development model, sometimes inherited, sometimes the result of progress in other sectors, and also external causes derived from the adverse conditions prevailing in the world in the 1980's for all developing countries. The most severe problems of the crisis have been overcome in the past 5 years. The Mexican people's confidence and the ability to resolve our own problems have been reinstated. Furthermore, we have started structural changes, thus establishing firm bases for a new stage of continuous and just growth.

Recognizing the accomplishments made as the result of effort by the majority of the sectors of society and the government's administrative ability, the party maintains that the economic challenge is summed up in three objectives:

—To control and fight inflation by protecting and gradually increasing the purchasing power of workers and peasants;

—To maintain and expand economic recovery to preserve existing jobs, and to create new and better sources of employment in more sectors and regions;

—To continue and intensify the strategy of structural changes to increase economic productivity, which is needed to achieve social justice.

The revolution's task today is to modernize the Mexican economy so it can be more dynamic in the domestic market, which would reflect the strengthening of the purchasing power of the majority; less vulnerable to external factors, in view of the increasing competitiveness regarding nonoil exports; capable of easing the excessive burden that the servicing of the foreign debt imposes on Mexicans' income; able to have a greater capacity for saving, investing, and creating jobs; able to have stable prices, a stronger and more diversified industry, an agriculture that will be capable of feeding the people, and, at the same time improve the lives of the peasants; a more effective commercial system; part of a state that will strictly follow its mandate, with a social sector strengthened by constitutional guidelines; able to have an enterprising private sector, within the national priorities—in sum, a modern economy, with a better distribution of economic activity in the nation, and with a better distribution of the benefits among the various sectors and groups.

II. PROPOSALS OF THE PRI SECTORS [subhead]

In the process of drafting the PRI's basic electoral platform, the three party sectors, its women's council, and its youth front made specific proposals. The following are the main features of these proposals:

1. Proposals of the Agricultural Sector [subhead]

The party affirms that the roots of the Mexican revolution are found in the peasants' social struggles. The outline of our country's recent history were shaped by the men and women of the countryside. To a large extent, development has been based on the strength of the countryside. However, the quality of life in the countryside has lagged behind. The modernization the party proposes recognizes this fact and maintains that Mexico's future must be based not only on an economically strong agriculture but also on a more just and balanced rural society. That is why it accepts and embraces the agricultural sector's principal demands:

—To give full legal guarantees to landholding in all the forms established by the Constitution. Guaranteeing stability in the ownership of land in the countryside is a necessary condition for vigorous production and a healthy rural life.

—To update and improve the agricultural legal system, resolving any omissions or imprecisions that hinder and delay it.

—To promote the organization of production. The party recognizes that a priority task is the best use of the distributed land through new and better systems of organizing and training peasants so they will fully participate in all the decisions affecting them.

—To draft plans that will facilitate and speed up the peasants' access to credit, based on the way peasants organize themselves.

—To set guaranteed prices that will be fair compensation for rural work and will prevent the unfair transfer of money from this primary sector to other sectors.

—Other priority demands of the agricultural sector are: to raise the right to food to the highest constitutional level; to increase health services in rural communities; to incorporate temporary or seasonal agricultural workers into Social Security; to expand the scope of the informal education system; to give the peasants access to the benefit of official housing programs; to diversify the peasant economy; to create the greatest possible number of jobs in the countryside so the population will become rooted there and so the negative effects of migration will be eliminated; and to update the legal and institutional framework to strengthen the rights of the rural workers.

2. Proposals of the Labor Sector [subhead]

The party recognizes that the country's organized workers have been a firm pillar in sustaining the march of the revolution and in facing the hard tests our development has brought. Their persevering efforts, solidarity, and spirit of struggle have placed Mexico on the path of industrial development and have frequently placed Mexico on the same level as countries with better technology. Above all, Mexican workers stand out because of their tenacity in support of social justice, which demands the provision of a decent job and a rewarding income. Therefore, the party proposes to uphold the following as the labor sector's main demands:

—To ensure unlimited respect for the right to work and organize as established in Articles 5 and 9 of the Constitution;

—To ensure respect by everyone—authorities, political parties, employers, and individuals—for the decisions and internal system of trade unions and union organizations.

—To guarantee the legality of labor organizations through the meticulous observance of both Article 123 of the Constitution and its regulatory laws, such as the Federal Labor Law, in individual and collective contracts.

—To respect the right to strike as the working rank and file's legitimate means of defense in search of equality in the means of production.

—To promote a policy that will base wages on just production value and will permit the worker and his family to have access to the material and cultural satisfaction necessary for their full development.

—To increase methods to efficiently protect the workers' purchasing power.

—To protect the rights of working women, eliminating obstacles to promotions and ensuring that equal work receives equal pay.

—To strengthen in a productive and responsible manner the social sector enterprises under the terms established by the Constitution.

3. Proposals of the People's Sector [subhead]

The revolution has found in the popular sector a renewed strength for political struggle and social recovery, beginning with the binding activism of the progressive middle classes. In this sector, the party also recognizes one of the great products of the revolutionary process and one of the best paths for opening the plurality of ideas, analytical attitudes, and creative initiatives, which have been emerging among large sectors of the population. Because of this, the party has summed up the popular sector's leading demands and made a broad analysis of their application:

—To combat the high cost of living, unemployment, and the unequal distribution of wealth, by struggling against financial speculation and guiding our resources toward productive purposes.

—To broaden the supply of basic foods, modernize the small- and medium-sized businesses, make progress in the consumers' social organization, and promote cooperatives.

—To regulate urban land ownership and find new mechanisms to satisfy the demand for housing and urban services.

—To improve the quality of education and reaffirm Mexico's cultural values.

—To effectively increase guarantees to the neglected population in the urban areas.

—To strengthen public security by incorporating community and justice officials' participation.

—To define, together with citizen participation, specific environmental protection and preservation policies.

4. Proposals to Foster the Integration of Women Into Development [subhead]

The party maintains the political principle and legal norm embodied in Article 4 of the Constitution, which states that there must be effective equality between men and women. Women account for more than half of the country's human resources. They are and always have been the solid base of our nationalism. Therefore, it is necessary to take full advantage of their creative potential for a more complete life. The challenges that Mexico must confront demand the incorporation and use of all its resources. That is why the party has accepted as its own the basic demands made by the women's sector:

—To broaden the free and united participation of women in politics, economy, society, and culture.

—To increase the mechanisms for the promotion of family-planning campaigns and coresponsibility of the couple in managing the family unit.

—To observe complete respect for working women's rights and equality of opportunities in the workplace.

—To make effective the legal norms that give women the right to obtain equal pay for equal work and provide training programs, job security systems, child-care centers, employment opportunities, and other benefits.

—To guarantee due respect for Indian women and their families, and their integration into society as a whole.

—To create in Indian communities a sufficient number of health and education centers, as well as agroindustrial units to improve their standard of living.

—To ensure that women in the popular sector receive higher-quality education and housing and are provided more urban services, support for consumer cooperatives, and environmental protection measures, and to ensure more participation by women in the definition and execution of these types of programs.

—To formulate and implement feasible programs and activities for the development of women and the peasant family.

5. Proposals of the Youth Sector [subhead]

Mexico is a country where the young are the majority: More than half of all Mexicans are under 30. In this population segment, the party recognizes the creative force of the young, the potential of their capacity to change, and their enthusiasm for modernization in daily life. The modern policies proposed by the party thus consider organized youth as a fundamental starting point; they are eager for change and social renovation. That is why the party has embraced their legitimate demands:

—To open more opportunities for active participation in all aspects of social work.

—To create means of allowing the presentation, debate, and in-depth analysis of problems affecting youth, as well as their own definition of solutions.

—To strengthen and respect youth organizations that allow young people to gradually rise to greater social responsibilities.

—To promote permanent political training that will allow the young to become aware of and sensitive to the population's needs and the country's challenges.

—To ensure that the young have access to education and that a specific employment policy is created for them—one that favors their incorporation into production and provides a livelihood with a decent income and that prevents juvenile deliquency.

—To increase recreational, sports, cultural, and communications opportunities among the young to discourage, as much as possible, their resorting to addictions that harm their physical and mental health and that reduce their creative potential.

—To review the laws applying to juveniles to allow a better understanding of their problems and, if necessary, to define the best ways for their rehabilitation.

III. DEFENSE OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND FOREIGN POLICY [subhead]

1. Sovereignty and National Security [subhead]

The PRI believes sovereignty ensures, in a vital manner, the nation's existence. As the people's representative, the government must preserve territorial integrity, including total compliance with the Law of the Sea international agreements.

The defense of sovereignty is a daily task. Our nation's existence is the result of the Mexicans' collective desire, and this must always be protected. In the final analysis, Mexican history is a long process of struggles to be independent and to sustain popular sovereignty.

National security is a concept derived from our people's historic struggles to preserve sovereignty. Constitutional order points to the Armed Forces, because of their proven loyalty and patriotism, as the organizations responsible for preserving our sovereignty. The Armed Forces have historically demonstrated their loyalty to the nation and its institutions. Their exemplary behavior has allowed us to have confidence when confronted with foreign intrigue. They are the heirs of our strength as a country and the guardians of our moral strength.

2. Policy of Principles [subhead]

The Mexican revolutionaries accept the value of a consistent foreign policy that demands international respect for the principles of nonintervention, free determination, peaceful solution to conflicts, legal equality of nations, and cooperation for development and peace. Confronted with a policy of power and strength, we demand a principled policy that gives Mexico moral authority and a base from which to negotiate.

The party reiterates its deep desire to support a broad foreign policy, a policy united with the legitimate causes of other countries and promoting cooperation with like-minded countries.

3. International Cooperation [subhead]

At the international level there is great potential for cooperation which must be used to benefit the economic and social development of Mexico. The party, therefore, stresses the importance of carrying out diplomatic actions to identify opportunities for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation capable of enriching our national resources and efforts for economic growth.

The PRI, however, upholds the nation's commitment to maintain the country's full control over its economic policy. The Mexican economy should work for the consolidation of the independence and sovereignty of the country. It should be based on the nation's effort to increase domestic savings, the level of self-sufficiency in basic products, the production of staples, and the production of strategic capital goods, to promote appropriate technological investigations to fit the needs of the majority, and to promote foreign trade.

Historic evolution has increased interdependence. Developing countries have the responsibility of taking advantage of their positive aspects, and solidly defending the attributes of their national sovereignty.

We share with Latin America and the Caribbean our origin and our destiny. Solidarity with our brothers in culture and blood is a political decision. Important democratization processes in the area favor economic integration and more effective political development. We will promote a Latin American economic reconstruction program which will be based, first, on development and integration of the countries, and, second, on negotiations that can promote fair and realistic cooperation with the rest of the world.

We will give our decisive support to the Cartagena Consensus and to the activities of the Latin American Economic System. In matters of politics, we will continue to participate in the efforts to achieve peace in Central America, with the help of Contadora and its Support Group. We approved of the agreement reached in Esquipulas, seeing it as a realistic means to achieve regional peace. We will also support the participation of industrialized and Third World nations that are willing to show their solidarity with that region in crisis.

Regarding the foreign debt, we believe the solution to the problem lies in sharing responsibility among debtor countries, creditor banks, international financing institutions, and industrialized countries. The solution must be found in an integral framework, considering the problems of financing, trade, and currency. We have reached the limit in the net transfer of foreign exchange to the rest of the world as we service the debt under the current conditions. This violates the logic of the economy and is tremendously unfair. In view of past restructuring and the strength of the obtained results, the time has come to design mechanisms to decrease the nominal value of the debt to its market value, where debtors are the ones benefiting from the discount. Multilateral financial institutions should play a more active role in this task and in the job of reverting the flow of foreign exchange from debtor countries. It is also necessary to reduce the level of interest rates to their traditional levels to decrease the extent of the foreign exchange transfer. The progress Mexico has made is a guarantee of what we can do.

With the United States, we propose diplomatic relations favoring respect, understanding, and fair negotiation to iron out differences in various matters such as immigrant labor, drug trafficking, and financial and trade cooperation. The party will continue to be concerned about the problem that adversely affects Mexican immigrant workers in the United States. It is necessary to ensure respect for their labor, social, and human rights.

Mexico needs to strengthen its cooperation and exchange ties with European countries. The diversification of our foreign relations will strengthen our international status and give us greater political options for development. We will also seek a more dominant role in and increased relations with Japan and the Pacific Basin countries.

The party hereby notes the suitability of increasing Mexican contributions to the Nonaligned Movement, an instrument of cooperation and coordination that exercises undeniable influence on the developing world and on its positions with regard to the great international political and economic challenges.

4. Struggle for Peace [subhead]

There will be no guarantee of international peace as long as economic and social imbalances exist, as long as political instability and the arms race cause a deterioration in the global situation. The party hereby states that it is necessary to strengthen international organizations, especially the United Nations, which constitutes an indispensable tool for negotiations and political agreement.

We believe the current situation in the world represents a challenge to the country's sovereignty. This makes it necessary for the nation to reach an agreement on the defense of an independent foreign policy committed to the safeguarding of principles and values essential for the Mexican people. The safeguarding of the self-determination of the Mexican people allows for no opposition or reservations.

IV. POLITICAL MODERNIZATION AND PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY [subhead]

1. Policy for Modernization [subhead]

Our party acknowledges that it is time to modernize our political life in order to be able to continue guaranteeing our strength as a nation. The party views political modernization as a synthesis of transformational attitudes that have emerged in the Mexican people to turn

experience into awareness; to progress based on what we have been in the past, on what we are today, and on what we want to be; and to bring the Mexican revolution in line with today's problems.

This is why the party is proposing the adoption of a modern policy. It is proposing the adoption of this policy as a supreme right of constitutional law and order, as a source of equilibrium among the [state] powers, as the foundation for dialogue and agreement. This modern policy will defend honesty, order, and discipline as norms of public administration. It will defend democracy as the way of life of the Mexican people.

The political renewal that the party proposes is a result of the changes that have taken place in the country. It is the link between the best of the past and the future, a rebirth and updating of what existed in the past, so that it may serve as a point of departure for the transformations that Mexico needs.

The revolutionaries of 1910 set forth in the General Constitution of the Republic the values that have allowed Mexicans to develop politically. The continuity of this development has evolved from the people's sovereignty and has also included the changes that the people have demanded. The political renovation that the party proposes is the renovation that our revolution has indicated it needs to advance toward the next phase in our history.

2. Progress of Democracy [subhead]

The party maintains that democracy is the path for political modernization. That is why it holds that democracy is a condition for and a consequence of modern politics, which will be manifested in all areas of national coexistence.

Mexican democracy does not originate only in the capital nor does it emanate only from the Executive. It depends on the 31 states and the Federal District; the 2,378 municipalities and the 16 districts of the capital; the more than 125,000 small communities, and the large urban cities; it depends on all Mexicans.

That is why the party will struggle for the decentralization of power throughout the country. It recognizes the potential capacity of the communities and the federal entities to resolve their problems and to satisfy their needs. It holds that the strength of local institutions is a foundation that guarantees the emergence of new and greater democratic and participatory practices in society.

3. Division of Power and the Federal Pact [subhead]

Our party expresses its support for the system of division of power for the purpose of expanding its popular base, strengthening its autonomy and independence, and intensifying the necessary coordination and cooperation among state institutions.

The strengthening of the legislative and judicial branches is a process that is already being implemented. However, the party believes that it must be consolidated to modernize the quality of popular representation and to improve the administration of justice.

The members of the legislative branch represent not only a specific number of Mexicans but their specific circumstances, aspirations, and demands. Therefore, the party commits itself to having its members in the Congress of the Union effectively voice the interests of those they represent and their territorial jurisdiction in order to form a social consensus that will eliminate the false choice of either unity or diversity. The party will always struggle for unity within diversity.

In this regard, the party recognizes that the federal pact is the agreement that guarantees national unity with regard to regional differences. The party proposes the strengthening of the bases of the Federal State through the revision of functions and the redistribution of resources among the federation, states, and municipalities as a permanent task of national modernization.

Nevertheless, the party maintains that the federation must represent everyone and the head of the Federal Executive must lead national efforts. The president of the Republic looks at the overall picture and corrects the defects of those parts that affect the whole. On taking office, he becomes the representative of the sovereign power that is the source of the federal pact. The democratic leadership that is exercised by the chief executive falls strictly under the system of law and the balance of powers. At the same time, he plays a role in national arbitration and coordination among institutions.

4. Pluralism and Participation [subhead]

Political pluralism affirms and enlivens an individual's right to freedom of choice and expression. The governments that emerged from the Mexican revolution have favored pluralism as a condition of democratic life, social mobility, and freedom to debate ideas.

The party will defend political pluralism as a way of being for modern Mexico and will ensure that the openness and legality of elections be of concern to all Mexicans. With the coresponsibility that all parties have in this matter, the PRI will multiply its efforts to ensure that its triumphs are so conclusive that they are unobjectionable under the rulings of the new federal electoral code, whatever the higher court of appeals may dictate at a given moment. The party does not ask for more but neither will it abdicate what the people's mandate has given it.

The PRI will improve its party structure, its political practices, and the principles that rule the organization's internal processes to strengthen its electoral political work, participation of all PRI members in all party activities, and the resolution of the people's demands.

However, the democracy proposed by the party does not remain at the polls but seeks social participation. If the vote is an expression of a wish, participation is its realization. The party feels that the people's capacity for change is multiplied when democratic paths are opened. This is why we encourage participation on all fronts: in associations, in clubs, in trade unions, in common land, and in communities; however, we want this participation to be orderly and take into account that dialogue, tolerance, and solidarity constitute the three basic conditions for the democracy that we Mexicans desire.

The people's wish as realized through participation should result in programs and describe goals of government actions. With democratic planning, the technique serves politics, and the public administration leaves behind paternalistic attitudes that replace citizen's actions.

The party will strengthen the planning done with the people: that which guarantees that public spending will be rational, honest, and austere, and that which considers social participation to be an important development asset.

With democratic planning, the idea will be not only that the people participate in the definition of priorities and development goals, but that they participate in the execution of projects and the supervision of the handling of resources that belong to them.

5. Democracy and Social Modernization [subhead]

The party states that democracy that guides modernization is political, but also economic and cultural, and it should be reflected in the quality of life of all Mexicans. That is why as a majority party, its political action will be unwavering in its intent toward greater educational reform to ensure that a greater majority of Mexicans have access to a basic 10-year education; health care as a constitutional social right; a broader coverage and improved quality of service toward the needy, with priority placed on producing and distributing more and better foods, thus ensuring the meeting of minimum nutritional needs for most Mexicans; broadened housing programs, not only in Mexico City, but in all the country's states, both urban and rural; and protection of the environment and preservation of the country's ecological systems.

The party will also promote the creation of political,social, and cultural conditions guaranteeing fruitful and timely information for the Mexican people. The mass media must promote society's right to criticize and improve the national debate.

Finally, the party acknowledges that the Armed Forces, because of their popular roots, republican loyalty, identification with revolutionary principles, and constant modernization efforts, are the bastions of the defense of our sovereignty and democracy. The Mexican Army, Air Force, and Navy deserve the gratitude and trust of the nation.

V. STRUCTURAL CHANGES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE [subhead]

1. Justice as an Objective [subhead]

The party maintains that all Mexicans must enjoy democratic freedoms, a dignified standard of living, equal opportunties, and individual and collective safety. Development goes hand in hand with social justice. Together with democracy, that is our party's main objective.

Society calls for greater equality. To achieve this, it is essential that we clearly define this challenge. Social justice can be achieved only with hard work, clear cut policies, and decisive actions; with redoubled and equitable efforts.

The government-proposed structural change seeks to increase opportunities to participate in Mexico's economic, social, and political life; to achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth, well-being, and power. The party maintains that the weakest sectors of society must have opportunities to participate in the development process.

The forsaking of any ethnic, social, or regional group is contrary to revolutionary ideology. That is why the isolation of Indian communities, deterioration of certain rural areas, and the increase of shanty towns within urban areas are unacceptable.

Mexicans of all social groups and regions are entitled to enjoy the benefits of nutrition, health, education, housing, healthy environment, culture, employment, and politics.

2. Combatting Inequality in Rural Areas [subhead]

Productivity and efficiency in the countryside must go hand in hand with the well-being of peasants. The common land and the community are productive units and also the basis for coexistence for a large part of the countryside.

In the Mexican countryside, we are facing the challenge of maintaining and the people's nutrition standards while maintaining social justice for the peasants. To bring about change, we must harmonize the general framework of legal security in the various forms of property, an organization based on the work and initiatives of peasants, strengthening public works in rural communities, and favorable prices. Together with wage increases in the agricultural field and the strengthening of peasant labor organizations, this is the framework of the overall rural development challenge that the party will vigorously take on.

We must progress from the distribution of land to an efficient organization of production. Land distribution and the regulation of land are examples of peasant demands and the keys to social calm in the countryside.

The organization of peasants to increase productivity and improve education, culture, democracy, and well-being is an indispensable task. The party will embark on this task while bearing in mind that small isolated farms are characteristics of backwardness and poverty. Organization is the key to democracy and social justice in the countryside.

3. Salaries, Employment, and the Struggle Against Inflation [subhead]

The party stresses the urgent need to increase the purchasing power of wages. Making wages more rewarding is a principle of social ethics and a basis for equilibrium among production factors. To face this challenge, a fundamental mechanism needed is the creation of productive employment and the protection of real wages. A solid basis for growth must be maintained: A social demand is that recovery efforts must be equal.

Employment is of priority importance for the party. It is a source of social justice and a concrete form of man's dignity. Employment is a gateway to social services and allows man to take care of his basic needs. Increasing employment and wages are two unavoidable goals of the party's economic policy.

Inflation continues to cause problems and adversely affects society as a whole. It has a social cost and hurts people. It is at the center of the economic challenge. The challenge of a serious and strong government is maintaining perspectives for the future, while resisting the pressures of each day: In that struggle, prudence is vital. It is necessary to persist making needed changes on the basis of accurate diagnoses.

To fight inflation efficiently, one must identify its causes: Inflation is today a different problem than 6 years ago. The fight against inflation must take place in a framework of balance between overall supply and demand, against pressures of cost, of productive limiations, of expectations of persistent inflation, and of behaviors opposing equilibrium. The struggle against inflation will be based upon the public sector's discipline and the awareness and solidarity of the social and private sectors. Price control will be easier when the commercial systems are modernized. An increase in production to satisfy basic needs is an essential element. A lasting solution of our economic problems lies in the continuity of structural changes.

4. Finance [subhead]

The dual need for economic growth and social equality demands the most intense and efficient increase in domestic saving in Mexican history. The public sector's savings should be strengthened by efficiency in spending and the proper use of income. The challenge is to find additional margins to control regular expenses and strengthen investments. The party proposes to end the process of dissolution among nonpriority entities, consolidate strategic businesses, and make social spending efficient. Rationing does not necessarily mean less spending, but an improved distribution of the available resources.

The party supports the modernization of the tax system. It is necessary to strengthen the treasury with a tax policy that will encourage productive effort and support social justice.

We will fight against new or higher taxes that will burden the majority's consumption. However, we demand the deepening of the struggle against tax evasion. We will demand the continuation of simplification efforts, as an unavoidable requirement for the tax administration's true modernization.

The party demands, moreover, the achievement of greater balance in the distribution of fiscal resources among the three levels of government. Especially important is the continued strengthening of the municipal public treasury. Meanwhile, the adjustment of prices and tariffs on properties and the services produced by the public sector must be in keeping with a noticeable improvement in productivity and quality.

5. Indebtedness, Savings, and Investment [subhead]

We support negotiation as the best way to resolve the consequences of the debt. However, in return,we will demand greater responsibility from the creditors. We will demand the banks agree to a realistic revision of the value of the debt and its economic and social cost.

The party contends that the economic reactivation and social development are requisites for the payments on the foreign debt: We will pay to the extent we develop. For this reason, we will reject generic prescriptions or universal formulas. The criteria for compliance agreed to with the creditors must be as flexible as required by Mexico's social situation.

The debt and international trade are not disconnected. The party will demand that during debt negotiations consideration be given to opening the international markets to Mexican products. Consequently, we advocate a gradual and reasoned opening of the national economy to the competition of the foreign market but without violating Mexico's sovereignty and independence in any way whatsoever. The opening must be geared toward competitiveness and efficiency and production procedures but must not endanger Mexico's production machinery or neglect the domestic market.

The growth of exports and expansion of the domestic market must go hand in hand. This can be done without promoting financial disarray. It is possible to generate

new, productive jobs; to build a more diversified and strong industry; and to modernize commerce and services in an atmosphere of greater opening and fair competition.

The nationalized banking sector should be the main support of the social and private sectors, while the nonbanking financial activities should prevent speculation and participate jointly in the exchange programs.

Finally, party supports the selective development of foreign investment according to the priorities of development. Foreign investment should be a source of transfer for technology, for training of our workers, for promoting our exports, and for the efficient promotion of investments.

VI.ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION FOR NATIONAL RENOVATION [subhead]

1.The Challenge of Modernization [subhead]

We hope to base modernization on the values and principles praised in the history of Mexico which will support itself in a strong economy, capable of satisfying the basic needs of the population. The rights of peasants and workers should be respected. We want modernization with a deep ideological background: Democracy and social justice are the goal.

Modernization must be achieved with the workers' organized movement, strength, experience, and permanent support for the high interests of Mexico. It would be unacceptable if modernization were achieved at the expense of the workers. It must be achieved with the peasants, who represent the people, who demand respect for their community organization and better standards of living. It must be done with the middle classes, so their hopes can become reality. It must be done with the women and youth of Mexico.

2. Mixed Economy and the Social Pact [subhead]

Mexican society has a mixed economy and political pluralism. The party feels the dilemma between liberalism and state ownership is over. In turn, it supports a system of mixed economy where the members of the social pact cooperate with the national tasks.

The party calls for: the strengthening of the strategic and priority activities in the public sector; a strong social sector to encourage democratization and the balancing of the economy; and an enterprising private sector committed to the nation's causes—private enterprise is an essential part of a mixed economy; it deserves to be stimulated and clearly guided. Full participation by the three sectors that make up our economy will give the country a full perspective to face the present, within the program of structural change.

To lead that change, the party emphasizes the Mexican Governments' leadership in the areas of production, distribution, and consumption. The revolutionary state's participation in the economic life is a guarantee of juridical security. The state sponsors methods and brings together economic freedoms with social justice, and it promotes social demands and strengthens production. In this context, public enterprise: supports the production of raw materials and staples; balances regional development; protects jobs and production; strengthens exports; increases the nation's scientific and technological resources. The party calls for a better organization of public enterprise that is financially sound, has modern systems and processes, and is productive and competitive.

We shall demand that adjustments to the public sector's prices and rates be guided by four basic criteria: to contribute to a better distribution of income; to strengthen public income; to minimize inflation and increase economic efficiency for the financial rehabilitation of the parastate sector; and to improve the quality of the goods and services that the state produces.

The people deserve to receive perfect service from their enterprises. Officials and employees of the public sector must always keep in mind that they are working for the people of Mexico.

3. Modernization of the Food Strategy [subhead]

The main principles of the strategy of an integral rural development are production and productivity. The objective is to obtain economic surpluses to supply capital to rural communities and, as a consequence, raise their levels of well-being. This is dependent on the complete organization of the countryside.

The search for food self-sufficiency presupposes the adoption of policies to support food production in order to redistribute income and offer abundant, reasonably priced quality foods. It is necessary to meet the demand for food and place the utmost importance on its distribution; it is essential to bring consumers and producers together.

The active participation by peasants and fishermen in planning is essential to offer realistic solutions to rural problems. Productivity and social justice in the countryside are concepts that complement the modernization that all Mexicans desire.

4. Industrial Modernization [subhead]

The party is aware of the insufficiencies and imbalances that must be overcome to modernize the Mexican industrial plant. However, it insists on the need to pursue this objective because the party believes it is needed to preserve the drive achieved during several generations.

Modernization demands the preservation and broadening of employment sources, strengthening of industrial self-sufficiency, and increasing the role of the secondary sector in the country's economic development. All these require the participation and determined concerted efforts of Mexican laborers.

A healthy industrial policy leans toward vertical integration and the completion of industrial productive processes from the exploration of raw materials to the manufacturing of capital goods. Small- and medium-sized companies play a role in this strategy.

5. Commercial Modernization [subhead]

Modernization of the supply system is a major concern of the party. We must redouble the struggle against the middleman, establish prices with honesty, and ensure benefits for both primary producers and final consumers.

The party urges the state to guarantee the supply of basic products, enforce guaranteed prices, and obtain better prices for agricultural products.

The search for productivity does not respond to an efficiency effort. It is part of growth and justice in the distribution process; it is not only an element of competition, but survival. Growth and productivity are essential in improving distribution of revenue. In a stagnated economy what is given to one sector is taken away from another. However, in a dynamic economy growth can be redistributed. Work is in the end the genuine wealth-generating source Mexico needs.

VII. MEETING BASIC NEEDS [subhead]

1. Population Policy [subhead]

The party advocates a policy capable of reconciling respect for individual freedoms and the need to reduce demographic growth and better distribute human settlements on national territory. It also supports a policy advocating the definition of specific actions to resolve on an equal basis the problems inherent to children, women, youths, and elderly people. The party will defend the social rights of the family nucleus as a national interest value.

The possibility of a rational distribution of the population lies in a balanced regional development. The party not only advocates reducing large urban concentrations but also strengthening population roots to their places of origin.

The population policy must be closely linked to development strategy. The policy proposed by the party is not limited to analyzing and controlling demographic growth but reaches into the realm of collective well-being and the building of consciousness on the roots of complex societal problems. We must maintain the achievements of Mexican population policy and further strengthen its ties with the overall development of municipalities, states, and regions.

2. The Right to Food [subhead]

The party proposes to incorporate into the Constitution the social right to food as a starting point for productive and nutritional policies that strive for each Mexican's physical and mental development.

The regulation and supply of generalized consumer goods responds to one of the biggest desires of the Mexican revolution. The party believes this work should be reinforced until supply is ensured for the more needy Mexicans and while the malnutrition phenomenon persists.

3. Health and Social Security [subhead]

The party will watch over the right to health, as contained in Article 4 of the Constitution, so that it becomes a daily reality. For this it will foster increased service coverage by the state and will strengthen health education and preventive medicine.

Health protection starts, however, with the quality of life. This is why the party's proposal does not just cover medicine. Instead, it takes into account man and his surroundings. Of course, medical services and assistance need to be strengthened and those services intended for the general population need to be decentralized, but guaranteeing a healthy life also demands adequate means.

4. Urban Development [subhead]

The party recognizes the need in the short term to reduce the results of poor administration in rendering basic public services; to change the habit of concentrating the population and resources in a few cities; and to make the relations between the rural and the urban sectors more equitable and just.

We will promote an overall strategy that will coordinate the efforts of the three levels of government and will facilitate the participation of society in programs to provide basic public services in the urban centers that have had the greatest setbacks and where the demand is growing. We will design financing programs that will make use of technology whose cost is more afforable by the people and that will channel the potential of community participation. It is essential to form a financial system that will strengthen the ability to meet the demands for urban facilities and services. It is necessary to review the larger cities' current subsidy programs. Strengthening a system of medium-size cities, providing them with better infrastructure and better communications among themselves and with the metropolitans areas, as well as better connections within the region—all

of that is the strategic line that will allow a more adequate distribution of the economic activities and of the population in the territory and a greater settling of farmers in the rural areas.

5. Low-Cost Housing [subhead]

In order to resolve our housing deficit we will make better use of the existing financial mechanisms, the programs for trade unions and enterpreneurs, and—above all—we will promote the participation of the people in the construction program. Likewise, we will have to make sure that land for housing and services is kept at a low cost by transferring to the governments of the state and of the municipalities the land that is owned by the federal government. The land must be purchased at an opportune time, and the holding of land must be regularized.

6. Urban Transportation [subhead]

The party is in favor of rationalizing the operation and increasing the capacity of the public transportation services through a system that will coordinate the local, state, and national transportation services. Likewise, the party feels that the fares or prices that are set for the transportation system should be commensurate with an efficient service, one that will strive for economic self-sufficiency.

7. Recreation and Sports [subhead]

The party feels that recreation is a series of activities necessary for the overall development of man, as recreation generates more positive and creative attitudes. Therefore, the party supports all initiatives that increase recreation and sport activities for the needy classes in order to favor the development of generations of Mexicans who will be healthy, useful, and productive.

8. Ecology [subhead]

The party demands greater awareness of the need to stop the grave deterioration of various ecosystems in the country. The PRI believes it is urgently necessary to review legal norms in the field of ecology to clearly establish criteria, responsibilities, and actions and penalties related to the protection of the environment. The party will also work for a specific sanitation program in heavily contaminated areas, for the introduction and development of technology to reduce the harmful effects of contaminants, for rational utilization of natural resources and avoiding waste, and for stronger and integral policies of protecting those animals threatened with extinction, as well as our natural reserves.

VIII. EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND NATIONAL IDENTITY [subhead]

1. Education and Cultural Plurality [subhead]

Culture is the foundation and the pinnacle of national development. Our cultural heritage has diverse sources: We are a heterogeneous nation and a mixture of beliefs, customs, experiences, and aspiration of various origins. All of this comes together in a community life project.

Education is an integral part of liberty. It is a means of cultural creation and strengthens our national identity. The party says the state has an obligation to uphold its responsibility for the education that is provided in Mexico. The Mexican revolution has secured the irreversible duty of offering it to all the people.

This is why it is necessary to satisfy the demand for basic education and to expand basic education to include the first 10 grades. It is absolutely necessary to increase educational options at all levels and to pay attention to rural and poor urban areas.

The party also states that the free publication and distribution of textbooks must continue. It has proposed a struggle against increasing the cost of books for the middle-education level.

Libraries are educational and cultural resources. They not only provide the opportunity to know our identity, they also open the doors to universal culture. Libraries have no cultural barriers. Their expansion remains a priority.

The party calls for a continued promotion of the editorial tasks of the state to guarantee to the majority of the people access to the best books. The editorial work supports the educational effort and consolidates culture.

2. Quality of Education [subhead]

The changes in the country's production structures necessitate a transformation in the education system to bring it into line with the dynamics of our economic and social system and with the needs of the various regions, in harmony with the productive sectors.

Our country has a young population. We must increase the efficiency of the education system and dedicate more resources to it. The party proposes the consolidation of the decentralization process so that responsibility for basic education may be shared by the municipalities, the state, and the people.

Adult education demands qualitative improvement and programs that prepare the adult population for production. We are in favor of intensifying efforts for educational and cultural support for the Indian communities in the framework of a plan that would take into consideration their abilities as well as their cultural characteristics.

The party is also proposing a diversification of technological and high school education to provide the elements necessary for the integral development of the

young. The party will back the continuity of the Educational Orientation Progam aimed at helping young people with doubts and at properly channeling their concerns.

The universities and other higher education centers must be strengthened to improve quality and to guide them toward the search for solutions to the problems of the states and the regions where those centers function. The party proposes urging the scientific community and the country's productive sectors to think carefully about how efforts for technological and scientific development in Mexico should be carried out.

3. Culture and National Identity [subhead]

We hold that the close association of nationalism and culture is the indispensable condition for political independence, bearing in mind that national culture is not synonymous with cultural uniformity.

Expressions of regional culture that enrich our life and national traditions must be encouraged by allowing the expression of regional diversification. Beginning with a recognition of our own cultural pluralism, we seek unity in the nation's objectives.

The party will defend a cultural policy that strengthens our national identity and traditions without breaking our ties with the world around us. Electronic mass media must promote the values that give unity to the nation. However, the actions by the state must also guarantee the preservation of Mexico's cultural heritage and its broad dissemination. All Mexicans are entitled to cultural benefits.

IX. DECENTRALIZATION OF NATIONAL LIFE [subhead]

1. Strengthening federalism [subhead]

The party is fully aware that it is necessary to continue strengthening federalism while advancing toward the decentralization of national life. The purpose here is to have states and municipalities better prepared in every respect. The strength of every Mexican state must be based on the vitality of its component parts.

Modern politics takes advantage of the strength of each of the republic's states; recognizes differences among regions, groups, circumstances, cultures, and ways of thinking; and promotes respectful dialogue between the central government and the states. Our federal system must overcome the mentality of dependency in order to establish a relationship of interdependence among the powers of the union, federal entities, and the country's municipalities. To federate is not to seek unanimity, but to unite in order to become stronger. The federation constitutes a pact that gives strength to the nation.

The decentralization the party proposes must be directed toward achieving greater social justice for the popular classes and improving the welfare of all Mexicans through a more balanced development of all the country's regions. This goal must be based on the decentralization and regional reorganization of the national economy and on the decentralization of duties and resources among the three levels of government without neglecting the cohesion and general harmony that must prevail in order to satisfy national interests.

To broaden the states' range of actions the party is demanding the constant strengthening of the Fiscal Coordination System through the establishment of direct incentives in the states' tax collecting system. The party is advocating that the strengthening of the system must continue through innovative formulas for participation that recognize and encourage autonomous efforts by the states to administer the people's revenues. The federal contribution to the states and municipalities must continue to be a fundamental instrument to reinforce their treasuries and to reduce regional imbalances. The party is demanding that [the revenues] be apportioned, in an efficient manner and with a high sense of social responsibility, to upgrade the quality of life in the community.

To fully develop Mexico needs to steadfastly advance on the path from federalism toward a complete decentralization of national life in all its aspects by strengthening our unity and sovereignty. The strengthening of the federal pact constitutes a fundamental basis for the fulfillment of the constitutional postulate of a democracy characterized by its constant efforts to improve the standard of welfare. The party therefore recognizes the need to consider decentralization when making political decisions aimed at finding new mechanisms that will reinforce participation at the local level.

2. Regional Development [subhead]

Decentralization is a fundamental factor in the guarantee of social justice and equality. The party believes it is essential for the regions to have more and improved economic and material resources and thus to be able to accelerate their development and work toward breaking the vicious circles of backwardness and deprivation.

The party will demand that public expenditures and credits be allocated in larger measure to productive investments in rural areas in order to more fully exploit our resources. The party will exert itself to establish decentralization programs that allow progress toward the transfer of responsibilities to productive areas.

Decentralization should represent a real and effective redistribution of power and decisionmaking authority from the central authorities to the state and municipal authorities; from the capital to the regional decisionmaking centers.

3. Strengthening Municipalities [subhead]

Decentralization is based on the free exercise of municipal rights. It is thus necessary to increase the political, economic, administrative, and financial capacities to allow a greater number of legal rights and to let the municipality seek its own development.

The goal will be achieved, legally speaking, if the municipalities fully join the planning systems. With regard to the administrative sector the municipalities' strength should be based on the use of appropriate techniques that will ensure the preparation of programs for resource distribution. Therefore, the modernization of technical and administrative structures will be a basic party demand in order to attain a new dimension more in keeping with the decentralization strategy.

Politically speaking the party states that one of the government's primary goals is the allowance by the municipal authorities of a democratic government in the community and for the municipal authorities to gain strength through regional administration. The party believes it is necessary to adequately organize the process whereby services are provided to populated areas, which basically involves the creation of coordination centers in rural areas and the strengthening of urban development plans in the larger cities. The required production activities must also be strengthened through development and decentralization to firmly establish the population in rural and urban areas and to promote an equitable redistribution of national wealth.

The municipal authorities are the government officials closest to the people and must provide the appropriate means to broaden the channels for democratic participation.

X. PUBLIC SAFETY, ROLE OF THE PROSECUTOR, SECURING JUSTICE, AND SOCIAL READJUSTMENT [subhead]

1. Juridical Security [subhead]

The Mexican people believe that justice and the law are among the highest values for an organized, juridical society. Justice is considered to be a product of development, and equity represents its perfect expression. Likewise, the law is recognized as a cultural instrument used in the achievement of social stability and egalitarian progress.

Consequently, abiding by our legal system the party will demand that the state fully exercise its duty concerning security matters. The handling of antisocial behavior requires a well-structured system that begins by preventing crime; is followed by prosecution and the administration of justice; and ends with social readjustment. Social justice, in this cyclical vision, thus provides the certainty of a commutable justice.

The party will strive so that juridical security is guaranteed through an efficient and timely action by the administrative and judicial authorities charged with enforcing justice. Society and the individual will then be certain that the law will not be erroneously enforced by the Attorney General's Office.

2. Social and Individual Rights [subhead]

The 1917 Constitution outlines the political, economic, social, and cultural rights of the Mexican people. It is necessary to strengthen our constitutional traditions to remain strong.

Regarding social rights the party has expressed the need to consolidate the guarantees that establish equity among the various social sectors. For this reason proper conditions must be fostered so that the enjoyment of the right to an education, health, housing, and employment may be customary.

Our state demands complete respect for the individual's guarantee of liberty, security, justice, and property. Consequently, compliance with the guarantees of freedom of expression, creed, political association and demonstration, profession, employment, free transit, residence, and petition must be assured.

The party is opposed to any kind of despotism. It rejects paternalism because it promotes weakness as well as a harshness that leads to dictatorships. It will struggle constantly to maintain absolute freedom through the exercise of social rights and individual guarantees.

3. Public Security and Prevention of Crime [subhead]

The party maintains its commitment to make every effort to improve public security, but it realizes that this is a task that demands from the state and society a duly and legitimately organized effort. To define and to struggle against the economic and social causes of criminal behavior is the best path to follow to control crime. The party will struggle to purge and train the police corps for better coordinated actions and shared responsibilities among the three government branches in order to guarantee improved results in the area of public security.

4. Securing Justice [subhead]

The Justice Department needs to be represented in society in such a way that it does not act solely as a criminal persecution organization, but as a guarantor of social tranquillity. Its objectives should extend beyond the legal system and it should increase its services to society: watching over its normal interests, intervening on behalf of the incapacitated and the family, protecting community rights, and providing legal guidance to citizens. The representation of justice in society should not only be punitive, but should also serve as a guide.

It is particulary important to improve the participation of the Justice Department in civil law procedures, especially in matters dealing with the family and rental housing.

The Justice Department should help out in legislative procedures and serve as a systems link to collect proposals made by individuals, questions from within the judicial branches, and suggestions based on experience acquired through public administration.

Defining the structures of the nationwide system for securing justice that links the federation, the Federal District, and the states is urgent. In this regard the party will encourage the evaluation of rules and procedures and the exchange of experiences to improve efficiency, the institutions' concerted efforts, and reforms to legal procedures.

5. Administration of Justice [subhead]

The party advocates the preservation of the authority and the credibility of the judicial branch of the federation and the states, as well as the integrity, preparedness, and exemplary behavior of its administrators. It particularly demands an effort to end decentralization of federal justice in the different federal offices through structural corrections.

The appointment of officials in charge of public security, the administration of justice, and social readjustment are of high priority. The party demands that moral authority be added to legal authority.

6. Social Readjustment [subhead]

The party will strive to complete the penal reform undertaken by the governments spawned by the revolution. The enforcement of laws must not isolate individuals who have committed offenses against society, but instead return them to society with better standards.

According to the basic rules of rehabilitation, offenders must have the legal security guaranteed by our Constitution and laws. This applies to both adults and minors.

7. Trust in Authorities' and Citizens' Duties [subhead]

We will adequately regulate the new powers of the Attorney General's Office in its role in serving the community. Citizens need to be assured that this office will guarantee their rights and respect their dignity.

A public servant must win his community's appreciation. Involvement by an informed community implies joint responsility with the authorities to help individuals as well as solidarity in guaranteeing the rights and interests of others. With this attitude, the social harmony produced by the de jure state and public security is possible.

The party contends that public servants must listen to citizens' suggestions and complaints. The party also promotes the holding of periodic, open meetings at which authorities and citizens can reassert their mutual confidence and reciprocal commitments. We will promote the responsible participation by citizens in matters of public security, the administration of justice, and social readjustment.

XI. THE SCOPE OF MODERN POLITICS [subhead]

In the next few years Mexico will face the challenge of living in a world that is experiencing rapid changes, but a world that will not give up the use of force to settle differences. It is a world whose modernity is recognizable through technological innovations that have helped men manufacture new goods but have not contributed to improving human relations. This world has expanded interdependence among states but it has also expanded inequality among nations. It has increased means of communication but has not fostered understanding. In sum, it is a modern world in which old struggles for domination and subjugation prevail over coexistence and accommodation [concertacion].

Mexico not only wants to survive. It hopes to coexist in society and in the international community, but with the conviction that the human condition is what matters. Although it is true that we cannot escape the effects of foreign changes, it is also true that our involvement in this must be on a free, sovereign basis.

That is why the party has proposed that Mexicans face this challenge by forging a new, modern politics that will make man an immovable, dynamic center. Engaging in modern politics means, in principle, humanizing relations in society and among states. The party offers this electoral platform as a beginning.

We do not propose carrying out modernization every 6 years. Instead, we will promote a way of life that adapts the Mexican's revolutionary ideology with the country's current conditions and its circumstances. Our proposal is based on a historical nationalism that confirms and describes, in each step, what we are and what we want to be. This nationalism has united Mexicans on a basic topic—the Constitution. It has also united them on their confidence—despite end-of-the-century uncertainties—about our present and future.

The PRI proposal calls for Mexico's continued development, which we want. We will start with what has already been successfully tried and then use what is new. According to our party, what has been tried and proven is the revolutionary program of 1917 and the institutions that have made it work with stability and social peace within the framework of our de jure state. The new issues are the different ways of participating, of dialogue, and the concerted efforts which emerge in our society to renew the bases of consensus and update its contents and the visible validity of its institutions.

This is how democracy, despite being such an old form of government, emerges in modern day as an excellent way of life. Its relevance is due to the political action of the society that adopts it as a means and an end in its human relations and its collective coexistence.

The modern policy the party proposes seeks to encourage society's initiative to create the mechanisms to ensure permanent organized participation in the affairs affecting it. Keeping an open dialogue and constant consultation among the various social sectors for decisionmaking fosters a modern authority concept that revalues communication and the contact between the rulers and the ruled. The peoples' sovereignty, therefore, becomes removed from a mere abstract list to adapt to definite forms that come alive and gain human quality in a democracy which speaks out and distributes the exercise of power.

On these bases, the purpose of generalized social justice is more available in the short term, with collective efforts as a people's decision. The immediate priority of the concerted efforts is to lessen the gap in basic services that affect the people's standard of living and to strive for self-sufficiency in foodstuffs. However, social justice must continue to be an unending task whose quality goals will need to be modified according to the development reached; this will be a new starting point.

That is why the PRI's motto shall continue to be Democracy and Social Justice, as a faithful description of the enduring wishes of most Mexicans.

Salinas on Rural Reform, Ties With Labor

PA072006 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 1 Dec 87 p 1

[Article by Alfredo Marquez and Armando Cruz]

[Text] Oaxaca City, Oaxaca, 30 Nov—After being informed of the problems of the rural areas, Carlos Salinas de Gortari proposed four reforms to resolve the situation. These reforms included changes to the legal framework, to government organizations for rural development, to agricultural organizations—especially to those in public lands—and to the integral rural development policy.

In presiding over the morning's Rural Society Participation in National Development meeting, which was organized by IEPES [Institute for Political, Economic, and Social Studies], Salinas said it is necessary to resolve the problems of the countryside since one-third of the people live there, but they produce only one-tenth of the nation's wealth. He said that if the problem is not resolved it could prompt political demands.

Salinas said that it is necessary to set aside the situation of state tutelage for agricultural producers to replace it with a new system of "shared responsibilities." He said it is necessary to produce a new general rural development law to strengthen the currently ignored social significance of the public land and to bring forth a new agrarian reform concept to move from the land distribution phase to one of combating inequality in the countryside.

In the afternoon, when greeted by the local leaders of the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM), the Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants, and the Mexican Workers Regional Confederation, PRI presidential candidate Salinas announced that in the next few days a party commission will be formed to propose legal changes to build new legal bases to regulate labor relations during the next 6 years.

A few minutes earlier CTM leader Guadalupe Santiago Martinez told Salinas that if the current policy of denying the rural workers access to basic products continues the country's political and economic stability will be put in danger.

At noon Salinas went to Guelatao where he received requests from 16 ethnic groups and said that the Indians are being deprived of their lands, are not being provided sufficient services, and suffer from abusive commercial intermediaries and from problems resulting from migration and from being rooted out.

Finally, at a party unity dinner, Salinas spoke about Latin American unity made evident by the Group of Eight meeting in Acapulco. He said that the summit meeting's results were more positive than what had been expected, and he noted that the conclusions were largely due to Mexico's leadership status in Latin America.

Cardenas 'Sole Alternative' To Defeating PRI

PA071255 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 27 Nov 87 p 4

[By Manuel Roque]

[Text] Morelia, Michoacan, 27 Nov—Manuel Fernandez Flores, Popular Socialist Party (PPS) precandidate, turned down the presidential nomination to allow his party to support Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano's candidacy for president, in keeping with the alliance formed by PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution], PFCRN [Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party], and the Democratic Current.

Fernandez Flores added that his decision had been prompted by his having realized, during a pre-electoral tour of several states, that PPS members evidently see the former Michoacan governor "as the sole alternative to defeating the PRI, and are very much aware that no one party could ever achieve this."

The precandidate reiterated that "only Cardenas Solorzano can attract more voters than any other opposition figure." He announced that the PPS will reveal the name of its candidate at the party's national convention to be held from 11 to 13 December.

He charged that after learning of our party's refusal to support Salinas de Gortari's candidacy the government has made discrete efforts to prevent the PPS from joining the political alliance supporting Cardenas Solorzano's sole candidacy.

Fernandez Flores said that during next year's federal elections the PRI will perfect the mechanisms for an electoral fraud to avoid the danger of absenteeism in the elections due to the "unpopular" Salinas de Gortari candidacy.

CTM Leader Criticizes Economic Measures

PA051557MexicoCityTHENEWSin English28 Nov 87 pp 4, 6

[Article by Gonzalo Olvera]

[Text] Fidel Velazquez, leader of the Mexican Workers Confederation (CTM), told a labor conclave Friday the wrong kind of officials have encroached on the government at the wrong time in Mexico's economic history, leading the president to make serious errors.

In a special summit held at the CTM headquarters, an unusually harsh Velazquez lashed out at the recent economic initiatives implemented by the De la Madrid administration. He criticized a 46 percent currency devaluation, substantive tax increases and a 47.2 percent hike in gasoline prices.

In contrast, policy-makers approved a 31 percent hike to minimum wages.

These measures, announced over the past three days, touched off a torrent of protests among labor leaders who now threaten a nationwide revolt.

Addressing the CTM's leadership, Velazquez discussed his decision to trigger a nationwide labor strike unless the government either backs off on devaluation or authorizes a 46 percent raise in the minimum wage.

The CTM chief met with the heads of his organization's unions, issuing instructions to set up the preliminary legal formats to set and file deadline strikes—unless officials respond on Monday to his calls for reversal of currency devaluation, which he said is unacceptable, or heftier salary increases for workers.

He said the price increases on government-supplied goods and services for 1988 was perceived by labor as a de facto denial of workers' demands.

Velazquez also issued a call for labor unity which, according to some observers, sounded like a veiled threat to unloyal members.

In words that threw some loyalties into doubt, Don Fidel urged leaders to close ranks around the organization's cause.

"Now is the time and the place to confirm our commitments," he said. "Let's make a full display of our CTM substance. This is no time for second thoughts. He who doubts himself had better leave."

Senior labor leaders agreed there is no time for second thoughts.

Leonardo Rodriguez Alcaine, leader of the National Electricity Workers Union (Suterm), said a strike may lead to eventual government intervention.

"But I can and I am willing to lay some skin on policy-makers and freeze the entire electricity industry," he said.

In turn, Joaquin Gamboa Pascoe, head of the Mexico City Workers Federation, also called for bold steps to get the workers' message across.

"It is necessary to lean heavily on the establishment to convince the policy-making apparatus that we mean business and should be accounted for," Gamboa Pascoe said.

Earlier Friday, Velazquez said the strike deadlines still provide time for conciliation and a change of course. Speaking at the closing of the American Insurance Company Assembly, he said the labor leadership in Mexico must react swiftly.

"Otherwise," Don Fidel warned, "social troubles will surpass, in magnitude and cost, the nation's current economic ailments." He said workers' demands derive from the labor leadership's drive to turn back the chaos that has settled upon the country.

"Often in the past," Velazquez said, "we have agreed to relinquish our rightful demands in order to help tame the problems that plague the country. But the effects of policies have grown beyond the workers' patriotism and tolerance."

Don Fidel said labor therefore has decided to avoid further sacrifices. "We have realized that everything we have done to push the country out of the crisis has been useless," he said.

A leader of the Mexican Electricity Workers Union (SME), Uziel Alvarado, expressed the union's support and solidarity with the CTM's policy.

"I only hope they do not let this hang on the line as happened in February," he said.

Alvarado was referring to the aborted electricity workers strike stage early this year. The strike call lacked full support from the top labor organizations and forced the SME's movement to give up its central demands.

The leader also deplored the position taken by the State Workers Union Federation (FSTSE) which has held back its support from the CTM's effort. He said the FSTSE's virtual withdrawal from the labor cause will not sap the momentum from Velazquez' initiative.

"On the contrary," he said, "FSTSE's leader, Hugo Domenzains, will be discredited for his servility to government economic planners and enforcers."

Briefs

Jan-Oct Trade Balance

The Planning and Budget Secretariat reported on 26 November that Mexico's trade balance from January through October 1987 registered a surplus of $7,034,300,000, a 117-percent increase compared with the same months in 1986. The office added that oil exports for the same period of time amounted to $17,205,200,000, which is 33.5 percent higher than the same period in 1986. [Summary] *[Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 27 Nov 87 p 12 PA]*

Industrial Production Figures

According to a study by experts at the Bank of Mexico (Banamex), industrial production in August rose 1 percent whereas during the first half of the year it had registered an accumulated drop of 1.5 percent. The construction industry went from a minus 23-percent annual growth rate in August 1986 to a 4-percent growth rate in July 1987. The Banamex report noted that the index of fixed gross investments [inversion fija bruta] had shown an upward trend, because in June 1987 it was 12 percent higher than in December 1986. [Summary] *[Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 23 Nov 87 p 7 PA]*

Costa Rica

Arias on Regional Peace Efforts, Trip to Oslo

PA070430 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1421 GMT 6 Dec 87

[News conference held by President Oscar Arias with unidentified reporters at the Juan Santamaria International Airport in San Jose—live]

[Excerpts] [Arias] Through the national press I want to greet the Costa Rican people prior to my trip to Oslo, Norway, to receive the 1987 Nobel Prize on behalf of the Costa Rican people. Our people and our country have been recognized by the Nobel committee in Oslo because of their 100-year-old efforts for peace. I will be leaving Jose Manuel Dengo as acting president. I wish him success. [passage omitted]

[Question indistinct]

[Arias] No, yesterday I spoke with Honduran President Azcona. He was going to be unable to meet with me at the time I could visit him, so I held a lengthy telephone conversation with him. I regret I will not personally see him, but at the time I could visit him he is going to be meeting with Senators Dodd, Kassenbaum, and Evans, who are in Costa Rica this morning and will be leaving soon for Tegucigalpa to meet with President Azcona. That is the main reason for the change in the agenda.

[Reporter] What specific topic will you discuss with Presidents Duarte and Cerezo?

[Arias] I just want to evaluate the situation in Central America. I want to hear how they view the fulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreement, and I might be sharing my views about it with them. As you know, I had wanted to receive the Nobel Prize in the presence of the other Central American presidents in Oslo. This has not been possible because not all of them could attend the ceremony. The only objective of my visits is to personally exchange views with those two presidents even though, as you know, we are always in constant touch on the telephone.

[Question indistinct]

[Arias] I spoke with Cardinal Obando y Bravo yesterday to personally hear his version of the Santo Domingo meeting. It is true that there has not been much progress. I do not think this comes as a surprise to any us because this process is very slow. The path is filled with obstacles that have to be gradually overcome. I am increasingly more convinced that the main obstacle is inflexibility and intransigence. I am sorry that is so because sometimes I get impatient that we are not progressing more rapidly, but we have to be patient. I think in the end reason has to prevail and we have to find peace.

I have suggested to the cardinal—and I will do the same to President Duarte—that a truce be requested. For me, the greatest happiness would have been to receive the Nobel Prize while the rifles are silent in Central America. I think we deserve to celebrate Christmas with a truce and, God willing, also the arrival of a new year with a truce. If there is a desire for that truce, it can be achieved. This is so if there is desire from all sides in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.

[Question indistinct]

[Arias] The desirable thing would be to achieve a lasting cease-fire and to end the war. If that is not possible, the desirable thing would be a truce beginning on Immaculate Concepcion day [8 December] until after the meeting of presidents on 15 January in San Jose, during which we will be evaluating the Guatemala agreement. If that is not possible, then whatever days can be agreed upon for a truce would be desirable. The truth is that for the time being a truce has been rejected by the Managua government, but I think there could be a reconsideration of this position. Yesterday I told the cardinal to insist on this. He will be officiating at several masses today, and I hope he will be insisting on a truce for his country in his homilies.

[Question indistinct]

[Arias] I want to hear President Cerezo's view of the meeting that his government held with the Guatemalan guerrillas in Madrid, Spain.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr President.

[Arias] I would like to use this occasion to reflect on something, on a topic being discussed by at least one newspaper these days. Some time ago, after the elections, when the issue of peace was one of the topics that most drew the Costa Ricans' attention, I told a U.S. journalist that if I were President Reagan I would dedicate the speeches he makes in support of the Nicaraguan contras to Central America's economic and social development. This led one newspaper to almost ask me to resign; it almost said I should refrain from taking the oath of office because I committed an act of treason against Costa Rica.

Time has proven that reason is the exception to the rule, and that the entire world acknowledges Costa Rica's peace efforts, and an entire people have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Today, again, it has been said that in the country there is an extreme right, and at the same time there is an extreme left. I really believe that most Costa Ricans are decent people, people who dislike extremes regardless of their source. They are people who believe in moderation, dialogue, and negotiation. They are tolerant people, people convinced that economic development makes sense only if, in conjunction with greater growth, that well-being is distributed in a more advantageous manner, in a more egalitarian manner. The goal of a more egalitarian society is shared by the

majority of Costa Ricans. In other words, they do not believe in the use of violence, because they disavow violence as a method, and they rather believe, as I have said so many times, in convincing before defeating.

Moderation is a virtue, and it is important for us in Costa Rica to be fully aware that there are left- and right-wing sectors dissatisfied with the manner in which things are going, and there are times when dissatisfaction leads us to struggle for things the Costa Ricans desire and hope for—peace, for example. I know this because I talk with foreign reporters who visit me very often now, and they also meet with opposition leaders or private or labor groups. They often tell me many of the people opposed to me hope peace will not be achieved so I will not gain another victory such as the achievement of peace in Central America. They do not want peace, and they have their fingers crossed hoping that the Esquipulas II agreements will fail. They want to be able to write an editorial in the future requesting that I return the Nobel Peace Prize because we did not achieve peace. They do not care that youths all over Central America continue killing each other on the battlefields. Why not talk without euphemisms? I would say this is a campaign in which a distinguished editorialist for LA NACION used his offices, his law practice—he is an attorney—to plan the strategy against my campaign and how to use that newspaper in his favor. These meetings are still held there; he writes; and, of course, he represents extreme ideas.

The great advantage Costa Rica has, and thank God for this, is that this extreme right wing can only write. In El Salvador they do not only write but kill, murder, and eliminate their adversaries. Here, thank God, they only write. Today, while in the car, I was reading an editorial in which a LA NACION editorialist said that if given the choice between truth and flattery he would prefer the truth. I would also. However, the problem is that this is not what he was choosing; he was choosing between informing and misinforming, between truth and falsehood. There are many ways to interpret freedom of the press.

One of those ways is to not inform the people of many things that happen. The media are free to interpret freedom of the press in that way. They can simply distort events or hide them, or, in other words, not report important events. Sometimes we have the impression that only bad things happen in Costa Rica, because the good ones are overlooked, they are not published. That is one way of interpreting freedom of the press.

We all have our preferences. For example, I prefer poetry over novels; I prefer going to the movies over watching television; I prefer truth over flattery; but, of course, in Costa Rica, in that newspaper, there are people who are out of touch with the feelings and opinions of most Costa Ricans. They are the people who refuse to dream of achieving peace in Central America, of being able to enjoy more privileges, of creating a country with greater social justice, etc.

It is important to talk without euphemisms. Sometimes we are surprised, because here we are not used to talking about the extreme right or the extreme left, and we all naturally accept that there is an extreme Marxist left that is dissatisfied with the way Costa Rica wants to build a different society, and it wants to introduce strongly demanded social changes through different means than those the left wants to use.

There is also an extreme right. It is struggling to maintain the status quo and to defend its privileges. The extreme right criticizes everything; nothing is right, according to this group. It undoubtedly uses the media to defend its ideas and privileges—because they are more privileges than ideas—to oppose social changes and to politically oppose the party that led me to the Presidency. It has been this way for over 40 years. I want to admit here that it is that way. We should not be surprised that this is so. I am willing to give Costa Ricans my interpretation of the truth, admitting that there is no absolute truth—there are truths. Therefore, I must defend those things I am struggling for economically, socially, politically, culturally, and internationally. I know very well who the opponents are.

I do not understand freedom of the press in that way. I simply do not understand it the way they do. Yesterday, for example, I saw the reaction to my speech on the economy and prospects for 1988. All opposition deputies were asked to give their opinions on the speech. They asked the opinion of Torugo Vargas, the propaganda chief of the Social Christian Unity Party, and people expected him to give a favorable opinion. That is the balance existing in Costa Rican society: to request only the reactions of the most [words indistinct] political opponent. [passage omitted]

I want to warn you that the two extremes can be dangerous. I want to warn you that the social coexistence we enjoy will be threatened if the extreme left continues to use violent methods because it feels that recent polls show that it is losing support. The extreme left feels it has to occupy parks and public institutions. It feels that it has to carry out increasingly hostile demonstrations at universities or other campuses because the Costa Rican people are turning their backs on it. The same thing is happening with the extreme right. I repeat that, fortunately, the only thing this group does here in Costa Rica is to write. This group does not have an army. It is like a lion without teeth, like a tiger without claws, thank God. This situation we owe to [former President] Mr Jose Figueres. The extreme right can write editorials, but it cannot deal blows.

When Vinicio Cerezo goes abroad he is always concerned about his return because a member of the military can always stage a coup d'etat. I leave Costa Rica without those worries because I know that neither Jorge Manuel Dengo nor Mrs Victoria Garron de Doryan will stage a coup d'etat. [laughter]

That is a very important difference. I want to call your attention to that, and let us not speak with euphemisms. This country would be in danger if we did not warn Costa Ricans that the two extremes, the extremes, can endanger our traditional and historical social coexistence. [applause]

El Salvador

Oqueli on Peace Proposal, Current Situation

PA061757 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1230 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Interview with FDR leader Hector Oqueli Colindres by unidentified reporter in San Salvador; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning. It is a pleasure to have you here. I know you have proposed the implementation of a 6-point plan, in which you explain how a government should be run. I would like to take this opportunity to allow you to further explain what this proposal is about and how you believe a government should be run.

[Oqueli] Well, basically our proposals have remained constant during the past 6 to 7 years. We are interested in ending the conflict in El Salvador. In this regard we have been calling for a dialogue to find a solution to the war. It is a war that greatly absorbs the country's resources. It is a war that, unfortunately, costs not only blood but also resources, which are used for things other than for the implementation of economic and social programs. From that perspective, we have said that through a 6-point plan, which other FDR leaders have presented. [sentence as heard] There was an extensive report published by LA PRENSA GRAFICA a few days ago written by Dr Ruben Zamora, FDR vice president, and an 18-point proposal made by the FMLN-FDR alliance, which fundamentally is interested in finding a solution among the Salvadoran people.

[Reporter] That would mean having to change some of the current laws. Which laws do you believe should be changed?

[Oqueli] When we had the opportunity to talk with President Duarte at the nunciature, during the so-called third dialogue meeting on 4 and 5 October, we said that our proposal was not a violation of the political Constitution currently in effect in the country. There are mechanisms in the political Constitution by which it may be reformed. I do not want to argue that point. The political Constitution is constantly disrespected in the country. However, we are sometimes told that our type of proposal is in violation of the political Constitution.

[Reporter] Would a reform of the Salvadoran Constitution really be needed to implement your political plans?

[Oqueli] This is not a matter of implementing our political plans; it is a matter of implementing a political plan for all Salvadorans. If it is necessary to reform the political Constitution by implementing procedures established in the Constitution itself to end the war then we will have to do so. We insist and believe that rather than thinking about an alleged legalism, which sometimes is an obstacle in the search for solutions to the country's basic problems, we should start to think about the fundamental interests of the Salvadoran people, who want to end the war in El Salvador. That is why we have proposed a dialogue that can lead to a negotiated solution and to a government representing the interests of all Salvadorans.

[Reporter] Salvadorans are concerned about reforms to the Constitution because they start imagining that the territory will be shared, that the Army will be divided, and that other things will occur, creating uncertainty among the population. What new things are included in your proposal to achieve this single objective? What would have to be changed in the country?

[Oqueli] The most important things we would need are goodwill, an open political spirit, and respect for true pluralism. This does not necessarily mean that we have to change a series of laws. We must try to understand that if the war continues the implementation of any economic and social program would be impossible. I recently read a U.S. Congress report stating that the current U.S. Government is subsidizing 81 percent of El Salvador's budget. We know that practically all national and international resources are used to finance the war. Consequently, what we need in El Salvador is a regime that can serve the country's majorities. Sometimes the minorities believe they represent the entire country. This prevents majorities from receiving the benefits of a government that is representing their interests. Second, we need absolute respect for democracy in El Salvador. President Jose Napoleon Duarte has said there is democracy in El Salvador and, as an example of this, he points out that there is freedom of the press. We agree that in fact progress has been made in the national news media, especially in radio and television. However, we regret the fact that some newspapers are supporting policies that would take us back to the past.

Democracy should allow the participation of all sectors of Salvadoran society, regardless of ideology. It should also allow everyone to have the right to join organizations and to participate in economic and social activities. There should be opportunities for true democratic trade unionism. Human rights should be fully respected. El

Salvaldor must not end up with such an absolute dependency on the U.S. Administration that this economic conditioning will lead us to yield our country's fate to a foreign power that does not represent the legitimate interests of the Salvadoran people.

[Reporter] However, the government insists that we are living in an authentic democracy, that there is a democratic opening here, that human rights are respected. Do you feel there is still much to be done, or is the president right?

[Oqueli] I believe that even though the press has carried the report by Professor (Pastor Irrueto) on the human rights situation in El Salvador, the truth is that there is still much to be done on the human rights issue here. Without stooping to exaggerations, we must admit that there are more human rights violations in El Salvador than even in Chile. Naturally, General Pinochet is a Chilean dictator, and since it is a de facto regime every effort is made to make the Chilean situation appear worse than the Salvadoran one. This is a problem that continues to worry not only the Salvadoran people but also the international community. In fact, as of 1980, the UN Assembly and its Human Rights Commission have been referring to our country's regrettable and dangerous human rights situation.

[Reporter] Who is responsible for these violations? Are the militias, the death squads, or the government responsible for these violations?

[Oqueli] We think there are different types of human rights violations. There is structural violence that deprives the Salvadorans of such basic rights as bread, housing, and work, and we believe these are the social human rights. There are also political human rights violations. There is no freedom to join organizations. For example, people like us who are part of the FDR and members of a political party such as the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement [MNR], which has a democratic socialist ideology, are prevented from freely exercising their political rights, which are even established by the Salvadoran Constitution. We want to enjoy these rights.

There is yet another type of violence. There are murders, imprisonments; Salvadorans are prevented from thinking freely. There are the so-called death squads. The world knows that 60,000 people have been killed as a result of this violence stemming from social and economic causes.

There is also the violence of war. People are being killed in the armed conflict. We would prefer nothing of this kind to happen. In the specific case of the war we would like to see certain measures to reduce the human costs in terms of displaced people, refugees, people who are suffering the consequences of the war. We also want the war to end as soon as possible. We believe that holding a dialogue is the best way to end the war. Agreement, and not confrontation, is the best way to end the war.

[Reporter] We were saying that the solution must be negotiated, that there must be a dialogue in order for the war to end. Does this also mean that the FMLN must set aside the armed struggle it is waging in order to enter a political phase?

[Oqueli] No. We have not discussed that with the FMLN. As members of the FDR, we feel that once a dialogue progresses and once there is a government that represents the Salvadoran people then the war will gradually disappear. We discussed that frankly during the dialogue with President Duarte held at the nunciature. We even told him that if he began a negotiation process with us he might be heading a transitional government that would lead this country to general elections and to finding a definite solution to the economic problems we have.

[Reporter] You continue to believe that a transitional government will resolve this situation?

[Oqueli] A transitional government does not mean the ousting of any government. A transitional government basically means having a period of transition that will ensure the basic guarantees for democratization, human rights, and economic and social policies, which will definitely lead the country to a state of permanent stability. That is what we call the transitional period. The current government, however, sometimes does not want to understand this or distorts the [words indistinct]. It then tries to argue that we want to oust this government and to replace it with another, or that we want to violate the Constitution, when in fact the Constitution provides for such amendment procedures. That is not what we have implied.

However, I believe that this is the time for the Salvadoran people to show their good will, as we, the MNR, the FDR, and the FDR-FMLN alliance, have done.

[Reporter] Would this mean establishing a transitional government in which you would participate in one way or another and enter the current government system, the existing government structures, such as ministries, etc.?

[Oqueli] According to the current political Constitution the president of the Republic is empowered to choose his ministers, deputy ministers, and those officials who will occupy important posts at the decentralized or semiautonomous institutions. It would cost nothing to the current president, to a future president, or to any other president to appoint the most capable people to rule the country. Consequently, a president with goodwill should think carefully about who the best people are to rule the country.

[Reporter] I have mentioned this because the image in the public's mind is that of Villalobos, Shafick Jorge Handal, Guillermo Ungo, and Ruben Zamora. The public believes you want to serve as presidents, to take over power, to control El Salvador, and to then establish a totalitarian regime.

[Oqueli] No. Basically, we believe in democracy. The MNR has defined its position as social democratic. No one can doubt the personal and democratic credentials of Willy Brandt, Francois Mitterrand, Felipe Gonzalez, or Olof Palme, the former Swedish prime minister who was murdered. These men have been our friends and our inspiration, even for the struggle we are currently waging in El Salvador.

[Reporter] Are you influenced, sponsored, or supported by them in any way?

[Oqueli] Those figures give us moral support. The Socialist International does not provide resources and provides no economic assistance to its member parties. However, we have found moral support for developing our activities, a support which has allowed us to maintain our faith in democracy and in the idea of a democratic socialism for our country.

[Reporter] Has your presence in the country and the meetings with opposition and labor leaders been positive?

[Oqueli] Our basic plan was to seek negotiation and points of agreement and to try to promote a dialogue, a discussion that would allow us to discuss the main problems in our fatherland. What have we accomplished? We have talked to opposition party members, with diplomatic representatives from Latin America and Europe, with labor leaders, with university authorities, with the media, and we have had the opportunity to be with you. We believe this is a first step, which could be repeated in the future to guarantee the right to fully exercise our political rights in El Salvador.

[Reporter] Would it be possible that the FDR or the FMLN, for example, could reach an understanding with a party like ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] in view of their very different ideological positions?

[Oqueli] We have always maintained that this government, which represents the whole country and all the Salvadoran people, should include all those sectors wishing to take part in the government's broad representation. The government should exclude only those who have excluded themselves. Thus, I see no problems in having a discussion of any kind or a political-ideological debate with any party, be it ARENA or whatever its name may be.

[Reporter] Therefore, [words indistinct] in future elections—perhaps not the coming elections to be held very soon—but in future elections, do you plan to join in the country's political life?

[Oqueli] Our interest is to fully exercise this right. We believe elections are a democratic expression—perhaps the best form of democratic expression—provided certain democratic conditions prevail. However, we believe such conditions do not exist in the country at this time. We believe that our visit has been made possible thanks to the effort exerted at the meeting of the so-called Esquipulas II. We believe there is a possibility of achieving a solution to the national crisis through dialogue and a political rapprochement. Our decision is to participate in the elections.

[Reporter] In this regard, are you going to represent the option that many people are waiting for? People are waiting for something new and different on the political scene.

[Oqueli] We have taken a step known as a democratic merger. We believe this democratic merger should not be limited to the three parties. We believe something new should be created in the country, and we will devote all our efforts to this cause.

[Reporter] It has been said that the FMLN guerrillas have lost much support in the country and abroad. What are your views on this? How much support do you have right now?

[Oqueli] I can give you several examples of what has occurred in Latin America regarding this problem of armed struggle. In Venezuela, Uruguay, and Argentina the guerrillas lost. They were defeated because they did not have popular support. The armed movement in this country has not been defeated. This means there must be some sort of popular support. In our case, our opinion as a party, as the MNR and the FDR, is that we will never resolve the country's problems unless we secure the participation of all Salvadorans. The fact that it has not been possible to defeat the armed movement in El Salvador after 7 or 8 years of war means that this government does not represent the Salvadoran people's interests.

[Reporter] What is the significance of the development and implementation of Esquipulas II?

[Oqueli] We believe that, first of all, it was a step foward in the search for solutions through dialogue and negotiation. We also believe that to a certain extent it signified the Central American governments' separation from the policies the United States has attempted to impose on the region, although Duarte kissed flags. We also believe the agreements are helping to create an atmosphere of detente among the Central American nations, which want to act not only as sister nations but also as if they were a single nation.

[Reporter] Do you think that Central America, and specifically El Salvador, is prepared to begin marching freely, without any ties, as truly independent nations, or must we depend on someone?

[Oqueli] In the field of international economic relations, and particularly with our export situation, we are subject to international market fluctuations that create a certain type of conditioned behavior. However, in the field of foreign relations I do not see why we cannot exercise the

right to be independent. The United States often does not undertand that it must not have Central American satellites. Instead, the United States should have friends. Friendship should be based on mutual respect and on the legal equality of nations. We want to be friends with all peoples, but not allies. We do not want to be a U.S. satellite in the way the current U.S. Administration is trying to make us be.

[Reporter] What will be the path to follow if the various sectors do not join this rapprochement?

[Oqueli] I think we will insist on what we have said for the last 7 years: dialogue, agreement, and a government that represents all Salvadorans and not just certain minority sectors. I think this is very important. We will continue to insist on this. We will try to find paths leading to a dialogue, to negotiation, and not to a confrontation.

[Reporter] Thank you for being with us this morning for the interview of the day. We leave the doors open for you when you return. Our program welcomes you and everyone who wishes to express his or her point of view. Thank you very much.

[Oqueli] Thank you, and we hope to visit you again soon.

Nicaragua

Ortega World Leadership Council Speech

PA080120 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0410 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at the World Leadership Council banquet at the Intercontinental Hotel in Managua—live]

[Text] Good evening, brothers. This has been a day of great experiences because of our direct encounters with the people, encounters during which the people expressed a deeply rooted feeling that is manifest in the vast majority of Nicaraguans. This country has faith, and a country with faith is a country with courage, and a country with faith and courage is willing to make sacrifices. This, in effect, is our greatest wealth, and it has been expressed throughout the Nicaraguan people's history.

Borders are artificial barriers created by individualism and selfishness. However, all men share a common language, a language through which we can communicate easily even though we may speak different languages, and this language is the language of love. People who are filled with love are filled with justice and brotherhood and are willing to surrender everything for the well-being of all.

I grew up among these people, a Christian, simple, humble, impoverished people; but a people full of hopes and determined to create their own history, to make sovereign decisions. What unites these people is their faith and their Christian strength, which was felt during the revolutionary struggle. It is still present now that we are struggling for true and authentic peace. As an astronaut friend who has been on the moon says, this was a truly extraordinary experience. Physically we can be only a short distance away from each other, or at a distance that no one in the world has achieved, like the moon. However, if we are influenced by love and the love of justice—and love is to surrender individualism and selfishness—then even if you return to the moon we would still be united, as close as we are at this moment, united under this faith that has gathered us here tonight. In Nicaragua we are struggling and praying for peace to become a reality. Christ did not want war; God is not a friend of war. We are not friends of war; we are not friends of injustice. God preached justice; Christ preached justice. Christ spoke for the humble and invited the powerful to share their wealth, if they truly had faith in him.

This selfishness that Christ fought against and continues fighting against is what creates the true barriers between men. We Nicaraguans are bent on—and I feel we all here share this belief—the need for these barriers to be torn down, because if we tear down these barriers of selfishness and individualism all wars would end. There would be no need to have any type of weapons or pistols. We then would have real peace in the world.

All efforts to reach a noble goal—all of these take a lot of effort. Christ himself, for example, had to sacrifice his own life. When did people start talking about peace? Since the very moment Cain killed Abel. The path to peace is full of difficulties, great difficulties like a great rock in one's path. This rock can be cast aside with efforts and the necessary instruments.

The great obstacles are still those that emerge from the land; fruits and plants out of a desert. At this time it is being shown that it is possible to make things grow in Arab desert zones. However, to change man's conscience so man may break away from individualistic and selfish feelings that change into hatred, that change into war, that change into violence—that is the most difficult task.

This is why, despite so many clamoring for peace, the world continues full of violence, war, weapons, and threats to humanity itself.

But the inner strength of those who, although not perfect, feel we must work for peace, work for fraternity—this spiritual strength, united despite the distance, and expressing itself in defined actions of solidarity and love for peace, changes the fighters for peace into a formidable force, capable of multiplying itself over the conscience of other men. We are faced with events where this will and faith, multiplied by men and the people in various ways, have opened up the possibility of signing an agreement where intermediate-range and short-range missiles will be reduced in December.

Who would have thought before 7 August 1987 that it would be possible for the Central American presidents to sign a peace agreement? The Nicaraguan people's faith, their willingness to make sacrifices. [sentence as heard]

There are thousands of young people from various religions, mostly Christian, who have died—peasants, workers, students, and children who have been casualties and continue being casualties of this war. There is the solidarity that your presence in our country represents, the solidarity of men and women such as you who had faith in Christ, who visited and established links with our people, who have spilled blood working to build schools or health centers or giving medical attention, and who have been murdered. This is the case of Spanish doctors, Swiss doctors, Belgian doctors, FRG doctors, doctors of various nationalities, and U.S. citizens such as Benjamin Linder.

What motivated these men to come to Nicaragua to face risks? What motivated these women to come to Nicaragua to run risks? They have come from countries as far away as Australia. They have come from Europe, Canada, the United States, and from Latin American countries. A path led them to Nicaragua even though many of the people who came did not know each other. It is possible that many of you who come from various countries do not know each other, but you are getting to know each other now. What brought you to Nicaragua? Love brought you to Nicaragua, love and your faith in Christ.

There is a formidable worldwide Christian movement that has made itself present in Nicaragua to contribute to peace here. All of these actions, the preaching for peace such as the one mentioned by Brother Viales; the preaching for peace that dozens of U.S. citizens do daily in Nicaragua and that hundreds of Americans do in the United States everyday; the prayers for peace in Nicaragua that are heard in the farthest corner of the world—all of this performed the Esquipulas miracle.

But the forces of evil are always confronting the forces of goodness, and the forces of evil will try to destroy this miracle so peace does not become a Nicaraguan reality, so the suffering may continue.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity to ask that the prayers of the U.S. and Nicaraguan people, and of other people who want peace for the Nicaraguan people, be able to break the barrier that has not made peace possible. In the United States the government leaders represent a people who believe in God, a Christian people who are, in principle, the enemies of war and the friends of peace. The same applies to Nicaragua.

We have to produce the miracle of destroying the barrier that separates the U.S. Government leaders from the Nicaraguan people so love may be the link that unites our two people.

We will continue working for peace. We will do it with seriousness and responsibility.

We would like to thank you for being here with us during these days when Christmas is near. These are days of joy for the Nicaraguan people even amid the pain. We are talking and sharing views. Thousands of Nicaraguans are at this time celebrating religious festivities in a very joyful way. However, at this time many Nicaraguans are also dying. Peasants are dying. Children are dying as a result of hatred and as a result of the barriers that exist between the U.S. Government leaders and the Nicaraguan people.

Every day children are dying here in Nicaragua. A week ago, when Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Alfredo Guerra was here, there was a mortar attack on a cooperative. The peasants want to work. Only now have they had the opportunity to own land. They are peasants who have faith in God. They are peasants who are Christians. You can go and see that those peasants are Christians. The attack was launched against them. There was a rain of mortar fire against the cooperative, and several mortar shells fell on a child development center. Before 1979 there were no child development centers in Nicaragua, not even in Managua. After the revolution child development centers were opened in Managua and in the countryside. The peasants have a place where children can stay all day long while the mothers and fathers are working in agriculture. They are very simple and humble centers, but they have been built with love. The attack was launched on the center. What was the result? Fifteen children were wounded. Many were seriously wounded and later died; others were left disabled. Six children were killed there. In total, there were 21 children, all of them under 12. A few days later there was another attack on another cooperative. More than seven children were wounded, and two were killed there. This is the martyrdom, the sacrifice the Nicaraguan people are experiencing.

We are willing to continue working with all the energy the people's faith gives us so peace will become a reality in Nicaragua. We are sure that united by our consciences; united in our hearts by a true and authentic love that has made you come from so far away to see our country, as thousands of brothers have come from other countries during all these years; united in love with the U.S. people, because I know that the U.S. people do not have bad feelings toward the Nicaraguan people nor do the Nicaraguan people have any bad feelings toward the U.S. people; and united by that formidable force of faith and spiritual strength—we are convinced that although the path may be difficult peace will be a reality in Nicaragua, and it will be the work of all of us who have unselfishly gotten involved in this great undertaking. Thank you very much. [applause]

[Words indistinct] we had close contact immediately after the triumph of the revolution, and I was telling him now that he has come to Nicaragua for this meeting, that

because I was told that (Newman's) mother had died a few days ago and that he was here with us, we should dedicate to his mother this meeting devoted to peace, love, and faith. [applause]

Panama

Business Group: AID Ouster 'Irresponsible'

PA071810 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Dec 87 p F-2

["Communique to the Country" issued by the Panamanian Association of Business Executives; date and place not given—passages in uppercase as published]

[Text] The Panamanian Association of Business Executives (APEDE) hereby states its concern and amazement over the Foreign Affairs Ministry's decision to close AID operations in Panama.

Like many other nonprofit organizations, APEDE has counted in the past on AID's generous support for its educational program for small enterprises. The success of this program is well-known both locally and abroad. The program would not have been as beneficial as it has been to thousands of small Panamanian businesses if we had not counted on AID's material assitance and technical support.

We regard this decision, which was made suddenly and without consultations, as untimely and inadvisable.

Even though it decided to suspend its voluntary assistance to Panama's public sector months ago, AID had continued its contributions to help meet the needs of our country's private sector through many nonprofit organizations such as PANAJURU [National Board of Panamanian Rural Youth] and COSPAE [Private Sector Council for Educational Assitance]. AID also helped cooperatives and thousands of students who are currently studying abroad. We think it is irresponsible to punish the country's neediest sectors by eliminating one the leading sources of soft loans.

This sad episode illustrates the history of our country. History repeats itself. A small group has again placed its interests above those of Panama as a nation. IN THIS CASE, A VERY SMALL GROUP WITHIN THE PUBLIC SECTOR HAS TAKEN REPRISALS AGAINST AID, THUS HARMING THE MAJORITY OF PANAMANIANS, WHO MAKE UP THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY AID'S PREVIOUS DECISIONS.

WE URGE THE HIGHEST-RANKING GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES TO RECONSIDER THIS ATTITUDE.

Board of Directors

Legislator on Delegation Visit to Libya

PA051558 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Luis Gomez, vice president of the Legislative Assembly, feels it is advisable for Panama to enforce an existing agreement with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. When asked about the forthcoming visit by a Panamanian delegation to Tripoli, Gomez said:

[Begin recording] Every action brings about a reaction. The measures issued by the Panamanian Government are actually the result of the economic encirclement the United States wants to impose on us by withdrawing all types of aid for loans and for the development of the country. Panama must search all markets of the world—regardless of politics or race—for the necessary assistance so the country will continue operating, so the workers will continue to have employment, and so the country will maintain the necessary development.

Therefore, we should not worry about this agreement with Libya. This is an agreement that was signed in 1977. All we are doing now is enforcing it. We must support the budget, the country's development, and our dignity as a free and sovereign nation. [end recording]

Libyan Relations 'Not Subject to Debates'

PA051749 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 5 Dec 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Development of Libyan-Panamanian Cooperation"]

[Text] When General Omar Torrijos was head of government he led an honorable delegation to the distant socialist republic of Libya, the first Jamahiriyah, or society of general assemblies of the masses without a party.

The delegation was made up of outstanding personalities of the banking, industrial, trade, political, educational, cultural, art, agricultural, and military sectors.

This delegation caused an interesting impact on that society, which had been closed to the outer world until that historic day: 1 September 1969. On that day former student leaders, turned into soldiers, took power from a weak monarch.

In April of 1977 the delegation led by the leader of the Panamanian revolution carried out an impressive task in all sectors representing the delegates' professions, with the friendly help of the Libyan Government and leaders.

The contacts resulted in various agreements, signed by the two parties. Copies were made in Arab and Spanish.

When the official delegation returned to our country it continued to work jointly with Gen Torrijos. U.S conservative sectors, however, exerted pressure

through their friends and agents in Panama and caused the agreements to be shelved. The Panamanian Embassy in Libya was never opened; Panama did not grant the same importance to opening an embassy in Libya as the Libyan Government did to opening an embassy here. It is beside the point to give the reasons for this injustice.

Now when the national government, enforcing its sovereign rights, forms a commission to implement the agreements signed 10 years ago with Libya, CRITICA congratulates our leaders for this just measure which has nothing do with other countries and which is not subject to debates or permission from third parties, regardless of their power.

What is at stake is exercising Panama's ideological pluralism and the mutual advantages of its free relations with other countries.

Argentina

Economy Ministry Reports IMF Disbursement

PY080217 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2322 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (TELAM)—In a brief communique, the Argentine Economy Ministry today announced that the IMF has made a $225-million disbursement for Argentina. This is the second disbursement made by the IMF as part of the standby loan it granted to Argentina.

Ministry Expresses Concern on EEC Tariff

PY050246 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2156 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—The Argentine Foreign Ministry today expressed its "deep concern" because the members of the EEC will probably impose a tax on vegetable fats and oils. This tax will have a "negative effect on the export of these products to the EEC markets."

The Foreign Ministry pointed out that the measure "will prevent Argentina from fulfilling its commitments to foreign creditors, including the EEC countries."

The implementation of this tax would reduce the consumption of vegetable oils while the consumption of animal fats would increase, affecting the demand for Argentine products, which are exported to EEC countries.

An EEC Council "summit" [preceding word in English] is taking place in Copenhagen, Denmark, to discuss the implementation of the tax. This measure will be based on the "need to collect money, approximately $2.3 billion, which is the amount that the EEC countries require to subsidize the farming sector."

The Argentine Foreign Ministry, after reiterating its concern to the EEC members through its embassy in Brussels, Belgium, urged the EEC countries to "clearly demonstrate political good will in order to avoid the implementation of measures that will have negative effects on international trade, and on the efforts to liberalize it."

The Foreign Ministry added that "the proposed tax goes against the commitment to maintain the status quo set forth in the Declaration of Punta del Este, and will weaken the negotiations that have been launched within the framework of the GATT."

Mixed Enterprise Formed for Munitions Factory

PY062117 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1236 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (DYN)—The national government has approved an agreement signed between the Argentine Air Force and foreign explosive manufacturing companies for the creation of the Aeronautics Technological System Inc [Sistemas Tecnologicos Aeronauticos S.A.—SITEA S.A.] enterprise, which will have the task of reorganizing the Cordoba materiel and weapons factory.

The new company will try "to improve production and diversify the market," says an official communique, adding that the foreign companies are Explosivos Alaveses S.A. and Industrias Quimicas Altos Explosivos de Seguridad S.A. Industrial y Comercial.

The business address and country of origin of these companies were not given. [passage omitted]

The official communique indicates that the "Air Force will provide the enterprise with furniture, installations, and services owned by the state or will contract the necessary means to meet the needs of the enterprise."

Decree 1869 points out the need "to strengthen the aeronautics industry in accordance with military and civilian needs aimed at improving the technological potential of that sector and the development of air power." [passage omitted]

Radical Civic Union Elects Executive Board

PY080144 Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Excerpt] After several days of negotiation and debate, the new members of the Radical Civic Union executive board were elected during a party plenum on 5 December. The composition of the new board shows that the leaders are concerned about preserving the party's unity, and demonstrates the party's internal tendencies. Several provincial representatives are part of the new board.

The board is now made up of Senator Edson Otero, president; outgoing Rio Negro Governor Dr Osvaldo Alvares Guerrero, first vice president; and Dr Caceres, of Santa Fe Province, secretary general.

Most of the leaders said during the plenum that it is necessary to hold a profound debate within the party. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Frigate Delivered

During a ceremony presided over by Defense Production Secretary Jose Maria Llados and Navy Deputy Chief of Staff Rear Adm Maximo Rivero Kelly, the State Shipyards and Naval Factories (AFNE) delivered to the Argentine Navy the missile-carrying frigate "Spiro," the third of a series of six that Argentina has built under an FRG license. [Excerpt] *[Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 28 Nov 87 p 7 PY]*

Bolivia

Results of Municipal Elections Reported

PY070131 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2106 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] La Paz, 6 Dec (EFE)—The municipal elections held today in Bolivia were very uneventful, according to reports received in La Paz from different regions of the country. However, there were some accusations of irregularities.

President Victor Paz Estenssoro, who voted in a downtown La Paz school, said today's elections were "decisive" for the consolidation of the Bolivian democratization process.

Several politicians, ministers, and candidates for councilman agreed with President Paz on the meaning of the elections.

Carlos Serrate Reich, leader of the opposition Revolutionary Vanguard Party, said the MNR and its ally ADN engaged in fraud in La Paz.

The leader of the leftist revolutionary front and main candidate of his party in Tarija, 958 km south of La Paz, charged that his party was not included in the multicolor ballots used for voting and demanded its inclusion.

Juan Lechin Oquendo, former leader of the COB and the mineworkers federation, said he submitted a blank ballot because none of the candidates represented the real interests of the people.

It was reported from Sucre, 740 km south of La Paz, that former President Luis Garcia Meza cannot vote because he is on trial for crimes against the Constitution and the state. He is also allegedly involved in the theft and subsequent sale of the diary of Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

The preliminary results of the Bolivian municipal elections will be known around midnight. The official results will be released by the National Electoral Court in 10 days.

ADN, MIR Said Winning

PY071517 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Municipal elections were held yesterday throughout Bolivia in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity, and thus democracy has been strengthened. The ADN and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] are still disputing the results in the main Bolivian cities.

The Free Bolivia Movement [MBL] was a surprise winner in Sucre while the Revolutionary Front of the Left [FRI] won in Tarija.

ADN, MIR, FRI and MBL have received the support of Bolivian voters in the first municipal elections to have been held in the country in almost 40 years.

According to preliminary unofficial results, the ADN has won in Cobija, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and Trinidad. The MIR has won in La Paz, Oruro, and Potosi, while the FRI is winning in Tarija and the MBL in Sucre.

Election returns from the provinces were slow last night but unofficial reports showed that the voters expressed a preference for the ADN, the MIR, and the MNR [as heard].

The elections have been conducted in a peaceful atmosphere and there have been no major problems; however, political parties have reported some irregularities in the distribution of election materials and the holding of elections.

President Victor Paz Estenssoro has praised the democratic behavior of Bolivians and said that the elections have strengthened Bolivian democracy. Electoral Court President Mauro Cullar has said that elections have been held in a peaceful and normal atmosphere.

Moreover, the candidates who participated in the elections have already announced that they have received the support of the majority. For example in La Paz, MIR candidate (Salmon de la Barra) called a news conference in which he stated he is confident that the final vote count will be in his favor. ADN candidate (Guillermo Fortun) also delivered a speech in which he thanked the people for their support in several Bolivian cities.

As of today, the department electoral courts will begin the vote count and will implement the proper mechanisms to study the irregularities reported by the different political parties. Once completed, we will be able to learn the exact results of the distribution of councilmen who ultimately will be in charge of electing the new municipal authorities.

Further on Returns

PY080158 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2041 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] La Paz, 7 Dec (EFE)—The Bolivian media today reported on the municipal elections held yesterday throughout the country, noting the defeat of the governing MNR.

According to preliminary unofficial results, the municipal elections in La Paz, the most politically active area of the country, favored the MIR, the ADN, and the Patriotic Alliance (AP) formed by the Communist Party and the radical Patriotic Convergence Axis [Eje de Convergencia Patriotica].

While the ADN lost its leading position, the MNR came in fourth, according to preliminary information.

The daily HOY headlines read: "The votes cast against the government overwhelmed the MNR and left the ADN in a position below the MIR in La Paz and El Alto City."

The conservative daily ULTIMA HORA reported that the ADN won in four capitals, the MIR won in three, the Leftist Revolutionary Front (FRI) won in Tarija, and the Free Bolivia Movement (MBL) won in Sucre.

ULTIMA HORA further reported that the "MNR is the big loser."

The Catholic daily PRESENCIA reported: "Democracy is strengthened in Bolivia; municipal elections were held in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity."

The daily stated that the ADN and the MIR vied for the lead in the main capitals, while noting the victory of the leftist MBL in Sucre and of the FRI in Tarija.

Jobless Mine Workers Lift Hunger Strike

PY041400 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The general indefinite hunger strike of the jobless mine workers was lifted at 2100 last night. About 2,500 people held a voluntary fast for 23 days; however, thanks to the Catholic Church's mediation the jobless miners and the government signed an agreement under which they promised to suspend all measures of force and to form commissions to study the miners' petitions.

Severo Torres, secretary general of the National Committee of Jobless Miners, explained the agreement.

[Begin Torres recording] First, through the mediation of the Catholic Church, the foreign minister, government officials, the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mine Workers [FSTMB], representatives of the National Committee of Jobless Miners, and representatives of the jobless in Catavi mining district and their advisers have agreed to study the following basic aspects:

A. To seek employment sources, preferably [words indistinct] for jobless miners.

B. To form a commission to analyze and find solutions to the problems of the jobless miners mentioned in point 2 of the 2 December 1987 document, as well as to the petitions made by the Catavi jobless miners. It is here stated that all the [words indistinct] should also benefit the miners working for the private sector.

C. To promote a meeting among the Labor Ministry, the National Committee of Jobless Miners, the FSTMB, and the Church to analyze the payment of [words indistinct] according to the general labor law for the private sector miners.

D. To form a joint technical commission to analyze the Catavi mining district problem.

Second, through this agreement, the representatives of the National Committee of Jobless Miners have decided to suspend all measures of force, including the hunger strike, throughout the country.

This document was signed in La Paz on (?3) December 1987 by Msgr Mestre, the foreign minister, the FSTMB executive secretary, and the members of the National Committee of Jobless Miners.

This document also acknowledges the problems of the private sector miners who are also affected by the economic policy of the current government. [end recording]

Torres immediately ordered all districts to suspend measures of force, especially the hunger strike. He also said that the miners in charge of the hunger strike groups must ask the Red Cross and other organizations to assist, for at least 3 days, the miners who were fasting. Some miners, in response to news of this agreement, began to leave the places where they were holding their hunger strike.

Brazil

Chilean Exiles Occupy UN Commissioner's Office

PY071550 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Twenty-one Chilean political refugees have invaded the UN Commissioner's Office in Rio de Janeiro. When the cleaning woman arrived for work, 4 women, 7 men, and 10 children entered the premises at 0800.

The Chileans took the woman hostage, locked the doors from the inside, and did not allow any other employees to enter.

The Chileans have stated that they do not feel secure in Brazil and they want to go to another country. The Chileans will only accept travel to Canada, Norway, or Australia.

(Merede de Morales), the UN high commissioner in Rio de Janeiro, is carrying out negotiations that will permit the Chileans to travel to Geneva.

Bresser To Release Fiscal Package 10 December

PY072323 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Finance Minister Bresser Pereira will present the final version of the fiscal package to President Sarney on 10 December. The most recent bit of news is that the package calls for closing down several state-owned enterprises that are running a deficit. The package also includes new income tax policies regarding individuals and corporations.

Minister Bresser Pereira has just arrived in Brasilia and met his main advisers to discuss the package's new measures. Later on, he wil have dinner with PMDB President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes to discuss the fiscal measures and to request the party's support.

Poll Predicts Voting in Constituent Assembly

PY070251 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] The presidential term of President Jose Sarney and job security provisions are the issues that create the most division in the Constituent Assembly. With about 1 month remaining before the new constitution is voted on in the Assembly, 48 percent disapprove of the 4-year presidential term defined by the Systematization Commission, and 44 percent favor it. The same division appears in the area of job security provisions: 47 percent are in favor, and 42 percent are against. These results were obtained in a poll conducted by Datafolha from 23 November to 3 December in the national congress in Brasilia among 469 (84 percent) of the 559 Constituent Assembly members.

If the current trend continues, the parliamentary system of government will be rejected when this issue is voted on in the Assembly: 67 percent of the members are against this system of government. Another issue that will be rejected is the nationalization of the distribution of oil by-products, because 63 percent of the Constituent Assembly members oppose it.

The Assembly will also confirm the end of political censorship (91 percent) and the tax privileges of judges, military personnel, and congressmen (90 percent). The Assembly will also confirm the expropriation of rural land that is not fulfilling a "social function" (82 percent), the right of all sectors to strike (67 percent), and single unions per sector. Seventy-five percent will vote for keeping in the constitution the article stating that the Armed Forces must guarantee law and order.

The PT and the PDT [Democratic Workers Party] (with 100 percent and 92 percent, respectively) are the only parties that reject en bloc a term of more than 4 years for President Sarney, while the deputies of the PFL favor a presidential term of more than 4 years (70 percent). The PMDB, PDS [Social Democratic Party], and PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] are divided on this issue. The same trend is seen in the job security issue. There is division in the PMDB, PDS, and PTB. The majority of the PFL members are against it. The PT and the PDT support this issue. The members of the multiparty group "Great Center" ["Centrao"] are clearly against the reduction of President Sarney's presidential term (72 to 20 percent) and the job security issue (61 to 28 percent).

The majority of the members (64 percent) did not want to propose anyone for the position of prime minister in case the parliamentary system is approved. Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Constituent Assembly, the PMDB, and the Chamber of Deputies, received 12 percent. He was followed by PMDB Senator Mario Covas (Sao Paulo) with 6 percent and Jose Richa (Rio de Janeiro) with 3 percent.

Soviet Ambassador Visits Senate Committee

PY022345 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Luis Viana Filho, today received a visit from Soviet Ambassador Viktor Isakov.

The ambassador was welcomed by Senator Nelson Wedekin, who said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev projects an image to the world of a man who struggles for peace for mankind.

In his capacity as honorary president of the Peace Council in Brasilia, Senator Poumpeu de Souza said the Soviet efforts to defend peace began with the destruction of the Nazis' apparatus.

Viktor Isakov, for his part, noted the Brazilian and Soviet congressmen's contribution to the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

President Luis Viana thanked Ambassador Isakov for his visit, and voiced his hopes that the changes being implemented by the communist society will be successful and bring peace, prosperity, and justice.

Briefs

Major Oil Well Discovered

Petrobras officially reported on 4 December that the oil well drilled 1 month ago in the Urucu region in the upper Amazonas could yield as much as 1,600 barrels of oil per day. This is the highest yield of all Brazilian wells drilled on land. [Text] *[Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 4 Dec 87 PY]*

Chile

PDC Vice President Comments on Plebiscite

PY022326 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Nov 87 p C-2

[Text] PDC [Christian Democratic Party] Vice President Andres Zaldivar yesterday said that no one who has been defeated could ever think of continuing to govern for 1 more year.

Zaldivar, who met with the press during the CDI [Christian Democratic International] political bureau meeting, was commenting on [CNT—National Workers Command—leader] Manuel Bustos' statement. Bustos had said that if the president loses in the plebiscite, he could not, under any circumstances, continue to exercise power for 1 more year.

In this regard, Zaldivar said he does not like to anticipate things, but "if the government forces us to hold a plebiscite—which is something we do not want, since we think it would be bad for the Armed Forces because it would mean exposing them to defeat and the opposition is not interested in defeating them—and only a minimum of guarantees is upheld, we will have to vote 'no.' But this is something we will decide at the proper time."

Zaldivar added that the people are aware that at any given time they will have to vote "no," and if we win, negotiations between civilians and the Armed Forces will start right away, as happened in Uruguay. Zaldivar stated: "The system established by the 1980 Constitution does not work. It does not work because no one who has been defeated can continue to govern for a year. This does not happen anywhere in the world. The person who wins assumes power."

Zaldivar said this is why the opposition needs to have a timetable, to have the possibility of joining in negotiations concerning the democratic transition process, just as happened in Uruguay.

Answering a question, Zaldivar said that the democratic opposition sector is ready; that it has clear ideas and a timetable; that it has clear ideas on what must be done regarding the political reform and economic issues, and what must be done in the negotiation process. He added: "I think it is not a difficult subject."

Zaldivar admitted that President Pinochet is ahead in his reelection campaign "because he has absolute power and he uses it without limitation." He added that Pinochet also "wants to use the Armed Forces apparatus to promote his candidacy and extend his term in power." He added: "The mayors are paid political agents who are working for his campaign, and they in turn have hired paid political agents who work for these mayors."

Asked about the opposition candidate, he said he believes that the sooner this candidate is appointed, the better. He added that this is a task that entails much responsibility and it should be done as soon as possible. He said: "If it were up to me, if I were the one to make the decision, I would do it within 24 hours."

Moreover, Renan Fuentealba, former senator and former PDC president, also discussed the issue by stating that the PDC and many Chileans are struggling to hold direct elections. He said: "We are not in favor of the plebiscite, and we have to admit that if there are no elections, we will oppose the plebiscite. This is what the party must do."

He added: "As for what Manuel Bustos said, naturally, if there is a plebiscite and the majority votes 'no,' the logical and honorable thing to do would be for the person who loses to withdraw from government. For if this happens, it will not only be a 'no' against Pinochet; it will be a 'no' directed against the entire regime."

Carabineros Director Cited

PY030140 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Nov 87 p C-2

[By Justo Beroisa]

[Text] Coihaique—Referring to when the commanders of the Armed Forces will appoint their candidate to the plebiscite, General Rodolfo Stange, member of the Government Junta and Carabineros director, has said that "the Constitution establishes a timetable and it will be strictly observed."

Asked whether the Armed Forces commanders would propose their own names and vote for themselves, Stange answered:

"It would be unethical to vote for oneself. Obviously one cannot overestimate oneself that much, but there must be a consensus so that the candidate can be chosen unanimously by the Junta."

Regarding the profile of the candidate to be proposed, he said there is still enough time to start talking about "succession." "One must think of the time that lies ahead. There are many months to go, and the political panorama, which is just now beginning to take shape, must become clearer." "We must make sure that this regime is projected into the future by continuing the work it is doing now, that the

organization that has been established continues, and with it the development that can be appreciated in all regions. It is important to note this and to bear in mind that this should be continued."

Stange added that several legal measures are still being analyzed, such as the electoral mechanism itself, and how the elections will be carried out. "In other words, what used to be the general electoral law, together with other measures, is what is being studied." Regarding the electoral law he said the Junta is "analyzing the most beneficial measures for making the plebiscite a truly open event, free of interferences, and for showing that it is honest."

Regarding the political parties, he said that they must get organized but that not much is happening in this regard. Asked about the political parties that are observing the development of the plebiscite, he said this is also being analyzed within the framework of the law. "Of course, we need the largest number possible of honest people to participate in the plebiscite so no one can say later that it was not an open event."

When he was asked his opinion on the establishment of a party for democracy, Stange answered: "We will see the results of these pseudo attempts to unify, and of placing personal interests before the interests of the nation." He went on to say that "the politicians should be aware of the importance of the plebiscite that will take place next year and should be aware of the responsibility they have to their fellow countrymen. One cannot engage in adventures or make statements or send letters abroad without being willing to face the consequences. One must be responsible for his actions."

General Stange dedicated the new Carabineros Aisen Prefecture No 27, and presided over the christening of a private ferry that will link Chacabuco and Puerto Montt through trips made on a twice-weekly basis .

State of Emergency Office Regulates Meetings

PY040137 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Decree No 52 issued by the office of the chief of the state of emergency zone of the Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province—date not given]

[Text] In view of:

a) what is established in the Chilean Constitution;

b) what is established in Law No 18,415;

c) what is established in supreme decree No 1,748, issued on 30 November 1987 by the Interior Ministry and published on 3 December by the official gazette, and supreme decree No 6,329 issued on 30 November 1987 by the Interior Ministry and published on 3 December by the official gazette;

Considering:

1. The security measures that must be (?adopted) so that the right to hold meetings can be exercised within the legal framework;

2. The effective protection that the authorities must grant to those who legally exercise this right;

3. The forces entrusted with ensuring the normal development of this right and the need to coordinate them in advance;

4. The legal powers and duties with which I am enstrusted as chief of the state of emergency zone of the Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province;

I hereby issue the following resolution:

1. During the enforcement of the state of exception, all public meetings must be previously authorized by the chief of the state of emergency zone.

2. Five copies of the appropriate request must be submitted to the chief of the state of emergency zone 15 days prior to the event. The copies must be signed by at least two people, who must be fully identified with their complete names, their addresses, and their RUT [not further identified] numbers. If the meeting concerns groups that enjoy a legal status or that are in the process of being duly recognized in keeping with the present laws, the authorization must be signed by the appropriate legal representatives. In addition, those who submit the request must clearly establish that they are fully familiar with the regulations established in this decree.

3. Those who sign the request will be held legally responsible for any situation that may arise from the holding of the event or on the occasion of the holding of event.

It is hereby ordered.

[Signed] Jorge Sincke Quiroz, brigadier general, chief of the state of emergency zone of the Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province

Foreign Ministry Dismissals Called 'Normal'

PY030153 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Six Foreign Ministry officials have been dismissed for year-end administrative reasons. The officials in question have been identified as Alvaro Zuniga, consular policy department director; (Felipe Demonceaux), bilateral policy department deputy director; Francisco Rios, legal department adviser; (Manuel Atria), consular administrative affairs department director; Jose Maria Gallardo, protocol department deputy assistant director; and Pablo Arriagada, secretary of the foreign information and culture secretariat.

Asked about the dismissals, Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia said one should not be misled about mere administrative measures implemented within the framework of a department having about 1,000 officials.

Garcia added that as is the case with any organization, year-end readjustments are normal. He said: This is true because there are Foreign Ministry officials who must take up appointments abroad, while others must return to the country. He admitted that there is concern within the Foreign Ministry about these year-end changes. He added, however: I urge them not to heed the false rumors that are easily spread through the media, which makes all sorts of speculation. Garcia said that activity in the area is normal, and it is necessary for some officials who are serving abroad in missions to return to Chile. Meanwhile, there are others who, because their terms have expired, and due to internal administrative reasons, must be replaced.

Ecuador

President Says Officials'To Ensure Liquidity'

PA041357 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] President Leon Febres-Cordero today said that monetary authorities will take new measures to ensure liquidity. He made this statement in the comptroller general's office, which is preparing to celebrate its 60th anniversary.

In his statements to the capital city's news media, President Febres-Cordero discussed the Group of Eight summit meeting in Mexico, which made important statements regarding the Latin American foreign debt.

[Begin recording] [Febres-Cordero] December is a month in which [words indistinct] and the measures that will be taken by the monetary authorities will help to normalize the country's liquidity so the country can keep producing, as I said before.

[Question indistinct]

[Febres-Cordero] One must be flexible. The economy is dynamic, and it is even more dynamic when a country begins to come out of a terrible crisis. Therefore, the Ecuadoran people—and bankers in general—should not worry. We cannot do all they want us to do in 24 hours, because even though they have full rights to defend their activity in Ecuador it is my obligation to look after the interests of [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Word indistinct] prime interest rates?

[Febres-Cordero] I have said it before, and I say it now: A country that does not have enough capital to finance its development must look for foreign financing. There you have two options. You can either go to private institutions or to multilateral development institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Unfortunately, these financial institutions place a number of conditions on giving credit, with which we are forced to comply. That type of financing, which is always long-term and without a grace period, [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Legislator: Debt 'Should Not Be Collected'

PA071341 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Dr Enrique Delgado Copeyano, congressional Budget Commission chairman, has said the foreign debt is an inevitable government commitment and must be paid under the terms it was acquired. On this, he said the following:

[Begin recording] It is not a matter of simply saying the debt will not be paid and nothing will happen. We must be honest and say what is really happening. If the country suddenly decided to not pay, the creditor countries would undoubtedly try to take reprisals against the country. Let us suppose we say we are not going to pay our debt to a certain country. The moment one of our oil shipments arrives in that country it can very well be seized. This could happen not only to the cargo, but even to the ship—if it is an Ecuadoran-flagged ship. In other words, I do not believe the solution to that problem is to say we are simply not going to pay the debt.

There must be an agreement between the creditors and debtors. I would say the president should try to change the creditors' minds. I am not saying the debt should not be paid. I am saying the debt should not be collected.

For example, Canada has exempted Africa's Third World countries from their debt payments. These countries cannot pay any capital or interest. I understand that nearly all the Latin American countries are in this situation. The foreign debt is totally unjust. It has caused a very serious setback in Ecuador's development. I do not know if such a measure as nonpayment could have worse effects.

We must be very realistic about this issue. We must think it over and speak the truth. [end recording]

Dr Delgado Copeyano reiterated that by 1988 Ecuador must pay 35 billion sucres for the foreign debt, which is an inevitable government commitment.

Peru

Garcia on Group of 8 Meeting, C.A. Tour

PA051806 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] President Alan Garcia has said that the agreements reached during the Group of Eight summit meeting in Acapulco will not fail. He made this statement during a recount of his meetings with the Central American, Contadora, and Support Group presidents.

Regarding the Central American crisis, President Garcia said both the physical and ideological presence of both superpowers are involved in the Central American problem. Garcia said he hopes that during the upcoming summit between the U.S. and USSR leaders the Central American conflict will be discussed.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] Before leaving for Acapulco I explained to the country that no Latin American country could resolve its economic problems alone. No democracy can be strong enough if it is isolated. In 160 years of independence we have seen that isolation is the worst path to follow because it leads only to poverty and brings weakness in confronting larger countries. That is why we are seeking a political agreement and the unity of criteria of the entire continent. That is why I went with seven other Latin American presidents to Acapulco. Before leaving I explained how our efforts for social and economic development are unsuccessful because of the international situation.

When we met in Acapulco our purpose was not to break this international system. That would be very difficult. The international system is currently changing, as it did in 1929. It is changing now. If we allow ourselves to float in this reality only God will know where we end up.

If we unite and reach agreements we will be able to stand in a more solid, more strong position.

In view of the reality in today's world I believe the United States must understand that it cannot be a hegemonic power, that it cannot intervene in Latin America's politics, and that it should contribute to the just cause of a better distribution of the world's resources, especially financial resources.

[Reporter] Mr President, what is the result of your tour to the Central American countries?

[Garcia] I believe it was a tour to an area that has been troubled by internal events and problems as well as by international conflicts which have almost taken this region to the brink of war.

In my meetings with the Nicaraguan leaders and President Daniel Ortega I saw a very clear political commitment to comply with their agreements with the four other Central American countries. They have pardoned and given amnesty to 985 Somozist and counterrevolutionary prisoners who oppose the Sandinist government. They have allowed the opening of important news media such as LA PRENSA and Radio Catolica, and they have formed the National Reconciliation Commission headed by Cardinal Obando y Bravo, who will receive the proposals of those who are opposed to the Nicaraguan Government. That is a very positive step, which shows flexibility and democratization, and which discredits those who are opposed to the Sandinist government. Those who have said there are no freedoms can now go to Managua and publish their newspapers and form their parties.

In El Salvador I also found a great political commitment to comply with the agreements as soon as possible. Naturally, there are differences between the government and the guerrillas, who have been active in El Salvador for several years. There is a political commitment to hold a dialogue, however. They have also formed their reconciliation commission. Two very important leaders of the revolutionary groups have traveled to the Salvadoran capital. So, we are looking at a peace process which is making progress but which also slows down at times. Little by little the peace process is gaining strength.

While I was in Central America, and also at the Group of Eight meeting, I said that these are accumulative processes. They cannot be processes in which large steps are taken. In Central America the peace process needs the peoples' trust in each country and among each of the countries. This is a slow, accumulative process.

In Guatemala the circumstances are naturally different. President Cerezo is adopting important reform policies. A short time ago he announced that coffee exporters should pay taxes. Up to now they had not done so. There was a campaign set up to protest those reforms. Cerezo was accused of wanting the state to control the economy, but what he really wanted was for society to share in the wealth produced by that society.

In Honduras I had a very important meeting with President Azcona. You know that Honduras had been accused of lending its territory for the establishment of contra bases that were used to attack the Sandinist government. President Azcona announced to the news media a very decisive step: He opened his country to the Verification Commission, comprised of representatives from the eight countries that met in Acapulco, so it could certify that Honduras is complying with the democratization process and that the country is not used by the contras as a base to train and to resupply. Naturally, inside Honduran territory there are still areas being used by the contras, but the Honduran Government has made the decision to eliminate those pockets of resistance and to remove itself from Nicaragua's internal problems.

In Costa Rica, which is an example and a model for Latin American democracies, I held a long conversation with President Oscar Arias—as you know, he won the Nobel Peace Prize. In my meeting with Arias we agreed on some views to continue with the peace process. I have told him that I would be willing to help the Central American peace process in any way. [end recording]

Pisco Mayor Shot, Killed by Shining Path

PA080358 Paris AFP in Spanish 0318 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Lima, 7 Dec (AFP)—The mayor of Pisco was killed tonight by a Shining Path terrorist commando that shot him as he was going home, the police have reported.

Carlos Medrano Vasquez, mayor and member of APRA, was ambushed by two members of the Shining Path at 1940 (0440 GMT). After killing him the terrorists escaped in a speeding vehicle.

The police of Pisco, 239 km south of Lima, have blocked the highways leading from the city, one of the principal cities on the Peruvian coast, to catch the terrorists.